





## Arafat makes controversial visit to Anne Frank house in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — Brushing aside Jewish protests, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat paid a visit on Tuesday to the home of Anne Frank, the teenager whose diary made her one of the best-known victims of the Holocaust.

Mr. Arafat, who is still seen by many Israelis as a terrorist bent on their destruction, said after leaving the narrow, cramped canal-side house where the Frank family hid for two years from Nazi stormtroopers: "I want to see for myself the reality and facts about what they have suffered."

He dismissed claims from prominent Dutch Jews that the visit was a political stunt, saying it was "my duty to take this very important opportuni-

ty to go". The Mayor of Amsterdam, Schelte Patijn, who accompanied him, said the Palestinian leader was impressed by the museum.

The Frank family was betrayed in 1944 and Anne was deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany where she died in 1945, aged 15.

Her diary, a moving account of life in hiding, has been translated into 55 different languages and has sold over 20 million copies all over the world since it was first published in 1947.

"A sad story. A very sad story," Mr. Arafat told reporters as he left the building.

But the visit prompted protests among the Dutch

Jewish community.

Bernard Biedermann, Secretary of the Jewish Council in Amsterdam, told AFP: "This visit opens old wounds."

Dismissing the visit as a "political stunt," he said the life of Anne Frank was a symbol of Jewish persecution and that some Jews felt the visit is inappropriate because Mr. Arafat has also killed Jews.

Mr. Biedermann added that the visit could nevertheless have a positive effect. "I hope that Arafat learns something. That he sees the Jews' pain and experience."

Henry Vuijsje, secretary of the Jewish Social Work Foundation, also said that some people from the Jewish community would be shocked by the move but insisted that

"others will be happy because it shows he [Arafat] wants to broaden his knowledge of the Holocaust."

The timing of the visit is particularly apt, Mr. Vuijsje added, coming on the 50th anniversary of the creation of the state of Israel.

It is not the first time Mr. Arafat has planned controversial visits to sites commemorating the Holocaust.

While on an official visit to the United States in January, Mr. Arafat tried to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington but the museum directors insisted it should be a private visit and that Mr. Arafat would have to "stand in line with everyone else."

The plan was eventually scrapped.

## Israel says Palestinians interfering with activity in Arab east Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Tuesday of hampering its activities in Arab east Jerusalem and seizing employees of a private Israeli company working in the sector.

Israeli Transportation Minister Shaul Yaalon said that the Palestinian security services had recently detained two Israeli Arabs working for a private Israeli company carrying out an investigation into public transportation for the

ministry.

A spokesman for the ministry said the two employees were taken to the Palestinian autonomous town of Ramallah on the West Bank, interrogated for three hours and then released.

"The minister condemns the presence of the Palestinian (National) Authority in east Jerusalem," the spokesman said, calling for the Palestinians responsible for detaining the pair to be arrested and tried.

denied that the incident occurred.

"We never interrogated these investigators," a police spokesman said.

The ministry said that 14 Palestinians employed by the company had been briefly detained by the Palestinian security services last week and have not returned to work since.

However, Israel's complaint concerns only the two investigators because they are Israeli citizens, the ministry spokesman said.

## Former Palestinian tourism minister buried in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Former Palestinian tourism minister Elias Freij, a pioneer of dialogue with Israel, was laid to rest Tuesday in a ceremony attended by many Palestinian officials but few members of the public.

Freij, who served as the mayor of Bethlehem for 25 years, died from kidney failure Sunday at the age of 81.

More than 1,000 people, including Palestinian National Authority ministers and security officials, joined the funeral cortege from the Freij family home to the Church of the Nativity for a Greek-Orthodox ceremony.

The services were also attended by religious figures and foreign diplomats, including Jordan's Tourism Minister Akel Bitaj. But residents of the town Freij governed for a quarter century turned out in relatively small numbers, witnesses said.

Freij was an early advocate of talks with Israel, long before the PLO opened official negotiations leading up to the Oslo peace accord in 1993.

He also maintained close ties with Jordanian leaders even during periods of tensions between Amman and the Palestinian leadership headed by Yasser Arafat.

Freij resigned from both his political positions last year due to his illness.



CHILDREN AT PRISON GATES: A gendarme looks on Tuesday as two young relatives of inmates peer through the iron bars of the main entrance of Umraniye prison in Istanbul, where left-wing inmates took 11 guards hostages during a nationwide protest over jail transfers. Prison officials said men affiliated to a far-left urban guerrilla group seized 12 warders at Bergama jail in western Turkey, 11 guards at a prison in Istanbul and four guards at Ankara jail (AFP photo)

## Three Turkish mayors dismissed for fundamentalism

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish interior ministry has removed three mayors from their posts and opened legal proceedings against them on charges of fundamentalist activities, a source familiar with the case said Tuesday.

Their removal comes amid a government bid to weed out mayors suspected of fundamentalist activities. An interior ministry commission set up for that purpose is currently studying the case of at least 37 mayors suspected of being pro-fundamentalist.

Among the three removed from their post was Mehmet Sekmen, mayor of the district of Kartal in eastern Istanbul. Mr. Sekmen is accused of having illegally employed at gov-

ernment expense people belonging to the National Youth Foundation, which is affiliated with the former Islamic Refah Party.

The party was dissolved by the Turkish Constitutional Court in January for violating the country's secular principles.

Mr. Sekmen joined the new Islamist Fazilet Party after the dissolution of Refah along with 142 of the former party's 147 deputies.

The deputies have the largest number of seats of any party in parliament.

Last week, five sub-prefects were also taken before the court on charges of fundamentalist activities as part of government efforts to crack down on Islamists.

## Egyptian police arrest militant following shootout

CAIRO (AFP) — An Islamist militant was arrested Monday after a shootout with police in the Assiut region of Upper Egypt, the interior ministry said.

Nasser Hussein Abdullah Hegazi was wounded in the gun battle near the township of Badadri some 350 kilometres south of Cairo before he

was arrested, the ministry said in a statement.

The statement called Nasser Hegazi "an active Islamist militant."

Islamist activists have battled with Egyptian authorities since March 1992, when they began a violent campaign to overthrow the government and set up an Islamist state.

## Christian evangelicals vow to end missionary work in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Some 50 Christian evangelical groups vowed Tuesday to halt missionary work in Israel in a bid to avoid legislation imposing criminal penalties for proselytising in the Jewish state.

The Christian groups released a joint statement, to be formally issued at a meeting Wednesday, reaffirming their belief in God's covenant with the Jews and promising to avoid "activities which have as their intention to alienate them from their tradition and community."

As a result of the statement, Labour member of parliament Nissim Zivli announced that he was withdrawing his sponsorship of an anti-proselytising bill that had prompted angry protests from Christians around the world.

The bill, co-sponsored by Moshe Gafni of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism Party, would impose a one-year prison term for "unlawfully holding, printing, copying, spreading, distributing or importing material which has an element of

proselytising." The legislation was adamantly opposed by Christian groups who feared it could even be used to prevent the dissemination of the New Testament in Israel.

The issue of Christian missionary activity angers many Jews who feel that through centuries of persecution and pogroms which climaxed in the Holocaust Christians have decimated the ranks of Jewry and should undertake not to reduce the number of Jews further by promoting conversion.

## Army recommends moving Goldstein's grave — report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The army chief of staff has recommended moving the grave of the Hebron mosque massacre gunman because it has become a shrine for Jewish militants, a newspaper said Tuesday.

The gunman, Baruch Goldstein, killed 29 Muslim worship-

pers in a shooting rampage in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron in February 1994. Goldstein was bludgeoned to death by survivors and is buried in a small park on the outskirts of the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, near Hebron. Goldstein was a Kiryat Arba resident.

A makeshift shrine has sprung up around Goldstein's well-tended grave and has become a point of pilgrimage for Jewish extremists.

The Maariv daily said that in recent discussions within the army, high-ranking officers expressed concern that the grave was provocative and could set off conflict.

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## Egypt bans private hospitals from holding corpses

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Health Minister Ismail Sallam has banned private hospitals from keeping the corpses of deceased patients as security until the families pay their bills, a spokesman for the ministry said on Tuesday.

"The minister has issued a decree banning all private hospitals from holding back corpses of deceased patients as security to force their relatives to pay hospitalisation fees," Samia Abdul Ghaffar told AFP.

"The minister decided to put an end to this inhuman practice after receiving several complaints from people who charged that the bodies of their loved ones were held up in hospital morgues," she said.

According to Islamic rituals, a person should be buried within hours of death. This is seen as a sign of respect for the deceased.

Mr. Sallam has likewise banned private hospitals from a practice of sending house

patients, sometimes even in the middle of their hospitalisation, if they are unable to pay their fees.

He also ordered private and state hospitals to accept all emergency cases and "inform patients of the overall costs of their treatment and their stay in any given establishment."

Hospitals that violate the terms of the decree could be shut down, Ms. Abdul Ghaffar said.

## Lebanese ex-detainees from Israeli jails open Internet site

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese who had been detained in Israeli jails launched an Internet site Tuesday to inform the public about the plight of their 200 compatriots still imprisoned by Israel, many without trial for several years.

"We want the world to know about the continued sufferings of the detainees," said Jamal Mahrum, information officer of the National Association for Lebanese Detainees in Israeli Prisons (NALDIP).

Mr. Mahrum, who was himself released in 1994 from Israel's Ashkelon prison after 11 years, told AFP that the site offered information in English and Arabic about the detainees.

"It includes their names, pictures and CVs of their detention years and conditions," said Mr. Mahrum.

He said the site also shows activities of the NALDIP, a committee of former detainees, including letters sent to world organisations over "Israeli tortures and human rights violations against the detainees."

"We also have an e-mail service for the world and the large Lebanese community abroad to help us and express their solidarity with the detainees," he said.

About 200 Lebanese are detained, many without trial or charges for several years, in prisons inside Israel and in the Khayam jail, run by the Jewish state's proxy South Lebanon Army militia in Israeli-occupied South Lebanon.

The address of the site is [www.naldip.org.lb](http://www.naldip.org.lb) while the e-mail detainee@naldip.org.lb

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Iranian leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable to the supreme Iranian leader Ali Khamenei congratulating him on the Islamic republic's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Iranian people further progress and prosperity.

The Regent also sent a similar cable to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami.

Turkish police release three Kurdish politicians

ANKARA (AP) — Police on Tuesday released three leaders of a pro-Kurdish party a day after they were detained for questioning about alleged links with Kurdish rebels, the Anatolian news agency said. Police questioned the three officials

of the People's Democracy Party (HADEP) as part of a broader investigation. Seven other party officials were charged last month after a raid on the party headquarters.

10 killed in vehicle collision in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The driver of a car and its nine passengers were killed when their vehicle collided with a bus in western Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported Tuesday. The accident occurred Monday on a road from Hamadan to Kermanshah, both cities in western Iran, it said. Two of the victims have not been identified apparently due to severe wounds. Because of a shortage of vehicles, Iranians generally pack their cars to overflowing with relatives and friends when they travel.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

16:30 .....Mr. Bogus Show  
16:30 .....French Programmes  
18:00 .....Oliver Twist  
18:30 .....Drama — Neighbours  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....Science Magazine — E-M6  
19:30 .....News headlines  
19:35 .....Comedy — Campus Cops  
20:00 .....Doc. — The Health Show  
20:30 .....Doc. — Staying Alive  
21:10 .....Drama — Kung Fu  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Mini-series: "Women on the Run"  
00:30 .....End of T.X.

## PRAYER TIMES

04:02 .....Fajr  
05:21 .....Sunrise/Duha  
11:40 .....Dhuhr  
15:12 .....Asr  
17:58 .....Maghreb  
19:17 .....Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
4632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel.  
4624590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
4622366  
Anglican Church Tel.  
4624853/4624811.  
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox  
Church Tel. 771751.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### Amman International Church

Tel. 865897  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 5688404  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter  
Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la  
Salle College Tel. 5661757  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.  
4623541

Church of Presentation, Sweifeh  
Tel. 5920146  
The United Catholic Church  
Tel. 4624757

The English-Language  
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190  
Evangelical Free Church Tel.  
892679  
The Baptist Church Tel.  
4628052  
The Armenian Catholic  
Church 771331

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the  
Department of Meteorology.  
Temperatures are expected to  
rise gradually with clouds  
appearing at different  
altitudes, and winds north-  
westerly to northeasterly moderate to active. In Agaba, skies  
will be partly cloudy to sunny,  
winds northerly moderate, and

### seas calm.

Amman .....05/17  
Aqaba .....14/25  
Deserts .....04/18  
Jordan Valley .....10/23

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 13, Aqaba 22.  
Humidity readings: Amman  
37 per cent, Aqaba 29 per  
cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim .....885446  
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab .....5602507  
Dr. Ayman Al Mutasel .....575748  
Dr. Jamal Jbarah .....847351  
Firas pharmacy .....5661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....890280  
Al Asema pharmacy .....4637055  
Yacoub pharmacy .....4644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....4637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy .....4623672  
Najth pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Ya'qub Al Khatib 991772  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....4637111  
Civil Defence Department 5661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue  
.....4630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Price 192 4621111 4637777  
Fire Brigade .....4617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Dept. ....4630321  
Hotel Complaints .....5605800  
Price Complaints .....5661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints  
.....787111  
Telephone Information (directory  
assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs .....4623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs .....5661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....5680100  
J. Electricity Authority .....815615  
Electric Power Co. ....4636381  
RJ Flight Information .....44-  
52200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport .....44-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special  
Surgery .....5921199  
The Islamic Abdi .....5661317

### Hussein Medical Centre Tel.

836813 856856  
Luznik .....4630195  
Khalidi Maternity .....4644281/6  
Ashleh Maternity .....4642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity  
4642362  
Malhas J. Amman .....4636140  
Palestine Shmeisani .....5607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....5669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 566727/9  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....56641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3  
Al-Bashir .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 560240/50  
Amal Hospital .....5674155

### ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital  
.....09/983323  
Zarqa National Hospital  
.....09/980560  
Ibn Sina Hospital .....09/986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital  
.....09/99099

### IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital  
.....02/275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital  
.....02/272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital  
.....02/247100

### AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital  
(03/314111)

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the  
Queen Alia International Airport  
Tel. (44)53200 where it  
should always be verified.  
Information on other flights  
are supplied on phone 44  
(52700) or 44-53250.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights

06:30 .....Damascus (RJ)  
08:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:45 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
14:35 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:40 .....Frankfurt (RJ)  
17:00 .....Paris (RJ)  
17:05 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
17:45 .....Brussels, Vienna (RJ)  
18:10 .....London, Berlin (RJ)  
18:15 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
18:20 .....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
20:10 .....Rome (RJ)  
23:15 .....Beirut (RJ)  
23:59 .....Cairo (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
10:00 Sanaa, Al Hadaidah (LY)

### 10:30 .....Kuwait (KU)

11:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
13:10 .....Tunis (TU)  
13:10 .....Bahrain (GF)  
14:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:30 .....Algiers (AH)  
16:05 .....Frankfurt (LH)  
17:35 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)  
20:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
22:20 .....Istanbul (TK)  
22:40 .....Amsterdam (TK)  
22:45 .....Athens, Beirut (OA)

### Royal Wings (RW)

07:45 .....Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 .....Amman (Marka Air-  
port) (RW)  
17:20 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:20 .....Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 Amman (Marka Air-  
port) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

07:50 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
09:45 .....Aqaba, Rome (RJ)  
09:45 .....Aqaba, Rome (RJ)  
10:45 .....Berlin, London (RJ)  
11:45 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
16:00 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
19:10 .....Colombo (RJ)  
19:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
20:10 .....Cairo (RJ)  
20:10 .....Riyadh (RJ)  
20:20 .....Bombay (RJ)  
20:25 .....Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
20:40 .....New Delhi (RJ)

21:15 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

22:30 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)

01:45 .....Dhahran (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights

01:55 .....Bacharest (RO)

03:00 .....Rome (AZ)

05:35 .....Larnaca (CY)

06:30 .....Paris (AF)

07:45 .....Beirut (ME)

08:20 .....London (BA)

10:30 .....Cairo (MS)

11:00 .....Sanaa (YV)

11:45 .....Kuwait (KU)

13:00 .....Jeddah (SV)

14:00 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)

14:10 .....Tunis (TU)

14:50 .....Vienna (OA)

16:20 .....Sharigah (AH)

19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

Royal Wings (RW)  
06:45 .....Amman (Marka Air-  
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21:50 .....Aqaba (RW)

Home

Major blizz

country nex

In a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN

with



## Major blizzard to hit country next week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — It has been announced that beginning early next week the country will be hit by a major blizzard, probably the result of the El Nino effect on Jordan.

A Meteorology Department official, who made the announcement on condition of anonymity, said the snow cover is expected to reach 200 millimetres in most areas, with up to 500 millimetres in areas over 700 metres in altitude.

Moreover, the official said, gale force winds will reach speeds of 80 kilometres per hour, high for the Kingdom, which normally only registers 30 kilometres per hour.

Amman, he added, will remain under freezing temperatures for about three days, which will also make most roads impassable and pose a real threat to fruit and vegetable crop production this year.

The official, however, said there was no reason to worry about fuel supplies, since the concerned officials said there is enough diesel, oil and gas to last for months. He said people need not go out to seek fuel because the authorities have a fleet of small tankers that will be going around town to distribute supplies.

The cold spell is predicted to start Sunday evening and last through the week. Toward the end of the week, heavy rains are expected to replace the snow and next week the temperatures will gradually rise to the normal averages of April.



DAGESTANI MUSLIM SELLS RUGS: A Muslim from Dagestan, a republic in southern Russia, sells his carpets in Amman. Pilgrims are making a stopover in Jordan during their 5,000-kilometre trip to Saudi Arabia and are selling their own carpets to pay for the hajj trip (Reuters photo)

## Jordanian-Swiss committee signs JD215,000 grant agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Swiss Joint Committee Tuesday signed two grant agreements totalling JD215,000 to be distributed to two non-governmental organisations in Jordan.

The joint committee was recently formed to implement a Jordanian-Swiss accord to convert Swiss government loans to Jordan into grants to finance development projects.

Under the first agreement, which the committee signed with the Islamic Relief Agency (IRA), JD45,000 will be allocated to finance the drilling of 50 artesian wells in poor areas in northern Jordan to encourage farming.

The second agreement provides for JD170,000 to be used by the South Special Education Society to finance the completion of the Prince Firas Rehabilitation Centre, which cares for children with cerebral palsy.

At the signing ceremony, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid voiced Jordan's appreciation of the Swiss government, saying that more funds would be made available if the two projects are successful.

The director of the Prince Firas Centre, Matar Abu Rukhiyeh, said the centre was established last year to offer special education and rehabilitation to citizens in the Ma'an Governorate. At least 1,400

citizens stand to benefit from the services of the centre, the only one of its kind in the south, he added.

The Israa regional director, Khaled Sudani, said the artesian wells project will benefit the northern governorates of Irbid, Jerash, and Ajloun and will help address the water shortage problems there within six months.

Signing on behalf of the government was the director of the General Budget Department, Abdul Rahman Ajlouni, for the Swiss government, the embassy's chargé d'affaires, for the Israa society, Mr. Sudani, and for the rehabilitation centre, Mr. Abu Rukhiyeh.

## Jordan planning to build nuclear reactor — official

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is planning to build a "small-size" nuclear reactor that would be used for educational and research purposes by university students in the Kingdom, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said Tuesday.

Ahmad Bashir, secretary general of the ministry, said the proposed reactor would be jointly financed by Jordan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is expected to donate JD1.3 million to the project.

Mr. Bashir told the Jordan Times that the agency has dispatched an expert to the Kingdom to help assemble a report on the proposed reactor.

The official declined to

reveal either the name or nationality of the expert but said the report will be submitted to the ministry by mid-April.

"The small-size reactor will be built with a low capacity. The expert will discuss all options, including the location where the reactor will be built," Mr. Bashir said.

The official said the expert was discussing several locations and nothing has been decided yet.

"All safety measures will be ensured to prevent any damage to the environment or any other dangerous occurrences," he added.

Mr. Bashir stated that construction on the reactor will not begin before 1999.

After the proposed reactor is completed, Jordan will join the few Middle Eastern states that possess nuclear installa-

tions, including Iraq, Iran, Israel, Egypt and Algeria.

The Kingdom is among the few Arab states that have signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which bans the spread of nuclear weapons and restricts nuclear reactors to peaceful purposes.

Israel has refused to sign the NPT and rejects any inspection of its Dimona reactor, located in the Negev desert in the southern part of the Jewish state, and other nuclear installations.

Egypt has also refused to sign the NPT and has conditioned its ratification of the treaty to a similar step by Israel.

Experts believe that Tel Aviv possesses more than 200 nuclear warheads and the capability of striking Arab capitals. Israel has repeatedly denied these reports.

## 19 sworn in as JPA members

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nineteen journalists were sworn in Tuesday as new members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) before Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Abdullah Ensour and JPA Board Chairperson Seif Sharif.

With the new additions, the total number of registered journalists in the JPA now stands at 386.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Ensour said the Jordanian media has achieved a high level of success and development and has succeeded in portraying the true image of Jordan and the country's progress.

Underlining the importance for the journalists to respect the oaths taken at the ceremony, Dr. Ensour said the media

bears a serious responsibility to carry Jordan's image to the world.

Dr. Ensour levelled criticism at a group of journalists whom he said sometimes acted in a manner harmful to the profession and their country. He described them as irresponsible elements not worthy of being affiliated to the profession and the association because they harmed Jordan internally and externally.

The minister said their oaths demand honesty and loyalty to the country, its leadership and its cultural heritage.

Mr. Sharif made a brief speech, calling on the government to support the JPA and urging journalists to remain true to the profession.

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Signing on behalf of the government was the director of the General Budget Department, Abdul Rahman Ajlouni, for the Swiss government, the embassy's chargé d'affaires, for the Israa society, Mr. Sudani, and for the rehabilitation centre, Mr. Abu Rukhiyeh.

## Lufthansa official expresses hope airline will transport more tourists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lufthansa's vice president for sales and services in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa expressed hope Tuesday that his airline would be instrumental in bringing in tourists from Germany and Europe to Jordan in 1998 and in the future.

Addressing a press conference, Josef Bogdenski said 45,000 German tourists visited the Kingdom in 1997, a figure that projects Jordan as an oasis of political stability and economic progress and serves as a true example of a country oriented toward a comprehensive peace.

Mr. Bogdenski was speaking one day after arriving in Amman at the head of a delegation comprising Lufthansa personnel and German tour operators and journalists on the first Lufthansa flight to the Kingdom in seven years.

He expressed Germany's commitment to continue supporting Jordan, noting that his country ranks third among nations providing economic assistance to Jordan.

Lufthansa, which will operate three flights per week between Frankfurt and Amman, had suspended flights to Jordan during the 1991 Gulf war. Royal Jordanian (RJ) has, however, maintained its normal flights to Frankfurt during the past seven years.

Mr. Bogdenski said the establishment of peace and security and political stability in Jordan prompted the German airline to resume its flights to Amman.

Lufthansa has been privatised since the beginning of this year, he said, noting that 36 per cent of the airline is owned by non-Germans, "of

whom three per cent are from the United Arab Emirates.

The Lufthansa 320-Airbus plane that landed in Amman Monday evening carried a total of 98 passengers, 50 of whom were members of the official delegation. They were invited by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and will be taken on a tour of the touristic and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

They were met upon arrival by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji and senior RJ and government officials.

According to Mr. Bogdenski, the number of passengers transported by Lufthansa in the past two months increased by 9.2 per cent over the figures from the same period last year, while the airline's operational profits last year amounted to approximately JD621 million.

## Two Egyptians sentenced to death for 1997 double murder

By Ramia Huseini  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Tuesday sentenced two Egyptians to death after they were found guilty of the premeditated murder of a 63-year-old man and his secretary near the Fourth Circle in June 1997.

Hani Fadi, 21, and his 19-year-old brother Hisham were declared guilty by the court tribunal of murdering Jubrael Iskander Nino and his secretary Fatimah Hanania, 32, in Nino's office behind Zahran Palace on June 11.

According to court documents, the two plotted to kill both victims in revenge for the continuous humiliation Hisham suffered from Nino.

On the morning of the incident, the court stated, the two defendants went to Mr. Nino's office with an iron bar and a switch blade knife.

Hisham struck Hanania on the head with the iron bar, stabbed her several times with the knife, then the two pulled her body to the bathroom, the court said.

The court added that when Nino entered the office 15 minutes later, the two struck him with iron bars, forced him to sign two blank checks, then strangled him.

The two then fled to Aqaba, where they were apprehended by the authorities two days later.

Tuesday's verdict, which was handed down by Justices Abdul Hamid Sa'ad, Yassin Abdullah and Ahmad Khatib, will be automatically reviewed by a higher court within the next 30 days.

One sentenced to life for murder

Also Tuesday, another court tribunal sentenced a 23-year-old to life in prison with hard labour after he was found guilty of the premeditated murder of his older brother in the Baqa'a Refugee Camp last year.

The court tribunal, presided over by Judge Mohammad Ajameh and including Mufleh Mubaidin and Issa Hamdan, originally handed the death sentence down to Yahia Fawzi for the premeditated killing of his brother Tareq, 30, in Mobas on August 13.

But the court commuted the sentence to life imprisonment because the wife and father of the victim dropped the charges against Mr. Fawzi.

Court transcripts said Yahia and his brother had constant feuds for three years over a piece of land and because of this, "the defendant plotted to kill his brother and purchased an unlicensed gun five days before the incident."

On the morning of the incident, Yahia shot his brother seven times and fled the scene.

The two died instantly, court documents added.

The verdict will be reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

Three acquitted of drug trafficking

In another case, the Court of Cassation last week acquitted three men sentenced to 10-year imprisonment terms and fined JD10,000 each after being convicted by the State Court in February 1997 for trafficking drugs.

Mahmoud Abdullah, 41, Omar Salem, 38, and Salem Hamad, 25, each were originally sentenced to 15-year prison terms with hard labour, but their sentences were commuted "because they all support families and deserve a second chance."

The prosecution charged that the three men decided to smuggle drugs from Lebanon to Jordan and used a tractor trailer with secret compartments to hide the drugs.

In its ruling, the Court of Cassation, which ordered the immediate release of all three men from detention, stated that the State Court relied on one witness's testimony "and his testimony was contradictory."

Further, the court said the prosecutor failed to provide substantial evidence to indict the three men.

## Cabinet endorses JD7.76m German grant for infrastructure project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday endorsed a JD7.76 million grant agreement between the government and the German Bank for Reconstruction to finance a project to develop the infrastructure in underprivileged areas.

During a regular meeting chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the Cabinet also endorsed the Arab agreement on fighting terrorism, passed by the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior and Justice, and authorised Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid to sign it on behalf of the government.

The Cabinet took a decision closing the Ministry of Higher Education's examination and community college departments and assigning their duties to Balqa Applied Sciences University. The staff of the two departments were seconded to the university effective Jan. 1, 1998.

The Council of Ministers approved the appointment of Jordan's ambassador to Austria, Mazen Armouti, as non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Czech Republic, Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia. They also approved the nomination of Rafiq Mustafa Jariri as honorary consul for Burkina Faso in Amman.

The Cabinet approved the technical and financial protocol between the Jordanian and Italian governments as well as a memorandum of understanding, under which the Italian government will provide assistance to the computer department at Mu'tah University. Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf was authorised to sign the memorandum on behalf of the government.

Other decisions included approval of Jordan's participation in the Arab Tourism Forum Exhibition, which will be held in Dubai from May 5-8, the formation of a delegation to take part in a meeting of Arab securities corporations, to be held in Beirut on May 6, and another delegation to hold talks in Washington with World Bank officials on carrying out a feasibility study for a 115-kilometre ring road around Amman.

## Pharmacists' union announces new elections to be held next month

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Pharmacists' Association announced Monday that members would hold new elections on May 29, after a High Court of Justice decision earlier this month annulled election results from April 1997.

According to Abdul Rahim Issa, president of the 1997 association council, candidates for the 10-member board will be announced by April 29, and all association members who wish to vote must have paid their membership dues in full prior to that date.

The High Court of Justice annulled last year's election results after four members — who had contested the elections but failed to secure a seat — challenged the legality of the balloting on the grounds that several members voted without having paid their dues. Under the association's bylaws, this dis-

qualifies them from voting.

In its ruling, the High Court found that 177 members paid dues with post-dated cheques and another 52 submitted cheques that later bounced.

Pharmacists say the decision to annul last year's results will have little bearing on either the political character of the association's board or its effectiveness in improving the profession.

The council is heavily dominated by Islamists, who hold eight of the ten seats, and pharmacists contend that because the association is securely tied to the Ministry of Health and Medical Care, its courses of action is limited.

"We first of all have a huge number of pharmacies that have sprung up in the country since the law, which used to specify the number of pharmacies in proportion to the population, changed," said a former board member. "The industry itself faces problems with pricing and because pricing is in the hands of the

government, they have little room to grow or become stronger."

The government determines the local market price for locally produced medicine and subjects these prices to periodic reviews. However, producers have complained that "periodic reviews" are few and far between, which puts them at a disadvantage on international markets, particularly markets in the Gulf, since the prices there are tied to the price on the local market.

Producers claim that recent price hikes late last year — the first since the devaluation of the dinar in 1989 — are insufficient because they only apply to drugs exported before 1989.

"The mission statement of the government is to provide the cheapest possible medicine to the Jordanian people," said one producer. "And when the government sets the price of one drug, we are stuck with this price for life."

## what's going on

AMMAN INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL WEDNESDAY

- \* Jordanian play "Another Bullet at Bernarda Alba's House" and Egyptian play "The Daughters of Bernarda Alba" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. respectively.

THURSDAY

- \* Jordanian play "Another Bullet at Bernarda Alba's House" and Indian play "Khol Do" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. respectively.

FILM

- \* Spanish film "Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday, April 2, at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- \* "Archaeological Findings at the Holy Baptismal Site of Christ (Maghas)" (in Arabic) by Dr. Mohammad Waheeb at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jubeiha at 5:30 p.m. (Tel. 837931/2).
- \* "Orientalism and Post-Modernism" by Paul Heck at the Fulbright House, Shmeisani (Tel. 568-4760) on Thursday, April 2 (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.).
- \* "La vida cultural de los moriscos - valencianos" (in Spanish) by Robert Cuencas at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

## New points system for traffic violations starts today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Starting today, the new point system will be enforced against traffic violators in a bid to improve road safety and reduce the soaring number of car accidents.

The new system is designed to help authorities take action against repeat traffic offenders by recording points for every major offence by both Jordanian and foreign drivers holding a valid Jordanian driving licence.

The number of traffic accidents in the Kingdom, among the highest in the world, has increased by around 10 per cent each year. Recent statistics released by the Traffic Department indicate that over 500

people were killed in Jordan in 1997 as a result of road accidents.

According to the new regulations, when a driver commits a violation a file will be opened, and when a driver accumulates 11 points, he or she must attend a rehabilitation course at the state-sponsored driving school. Upon reaching 12 points, his or her licence will be revoked for two months.

Violations that are worth four points include driving without a licence or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, failure to stop at red lights, failure to report to the nearest police station in the event of an accident leading to injury, using a forged licence plate, and violating one-way street rules.

## Orientalist, Islamic approaches to history focus of lecture tomorrow

By Nadia Mukhlis  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Orientalism and Post-Modernism" is the title of a lecture exploring the divide between orientalism and Islam to be given by Paul Heck at the Fulbright House in Shmeisani on April 2.

"This gap has grown considerably since the rise of post-modernism sensibilities in Western universities and their influences on oriental studies," said Mr. Heck, a pre-doctoral Fulbright fellow.

The lecture aims at depicting ideas from both points of view, he added.

"We witness that the differences are not the results of either malicious intent by the orientalists or less than critical scholarly stand-

dards by the Muslim scholar, [but] rather are a result of two very different definitions of history and two different notions accessing historical knowledge," he said.

While the two approaches differ considerably, both contribute important understandings to the past, he said.

The orientalist approach in the post-modern age aims at mapping out the history of Islam exactly as it happened by following a scientific method of inquiry.

However, scholars notice that the earliest Islamic sources did not intend a simple recording of events of the past but are seen instead as a reflection of the social and ideological concerns of the community at

the time, he explained.

"A different approach to the early Islamic sources is to view them not as ground for extracting objective knowledge of events, as they really happened, but as an area to explore the developing social ideological concerns of a community," he told the Jordan Times.

"The historical process is seen as a link from one generation of scholars to another, each passing on to the next material of revelation as understood in the prophetic tradition [hadith]," he said.

As a result, "a challenge to the content of that transmitted tradition is a potential challenge to the soundness of the transmission, which is a potential challenge to the guarantee of

the revelation. This endangers a certain faith-coloured reception of the tradition and the acceptance of the events it narrates at face value," he added.

Despite the significant differences, there is room for hope, Mr. Heck said.

The post-modern development in the orientalist approach and Muslim understanding of history share a common point in that history is not merely a recording of events. Rather, historical truth is primarily a relation of people to their past.

If history is understood that way, both orientalist and Muslim can read various texts with the primary goal of understanding the authors' understanding of his past, stated Mr. Heck.



## Yeltsin retains Primakov, Zadornov in key government roles

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin indicated Tuesday that two senior ministers would retain their posts in the new government, for once championing cautious continuity after a week of sweeping change in the country's executive.

Mr. Yeltsin announced that Yevgeny Primakov and Mikhail Zadornov were no longer merely interim ministers, but had been restored fully to the foreign and finance portfolios respectively by presidential decree.

The Kremlin swiftly moved to clarify that the decrees had not yet been signed, as under the constitution Mr. Yeltsin cannot appoint ministers while his own choice for government chief has not been confirmed by the State Duma Lower House of Parliament.

But Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky added that the president's intention was clear.

"In expressing himself in such a firm fashion, the president has clearly indicated that he sees Primakov and Zadornov as ministers in the new cabinet," Mr. Yastrzhembsky said.

The spokesman said the same was true of Sergei Stepashin, named Monday to the interior ministry port-

folio as well as Igor Sergeyev, outgoing defence minister.

While the de facto reappointments mark a pause in Mr. Yeltsin's sudden and sweeping government shake-up, the manner in which they were announced amounts to another embarrassment for the increasingly gaffe-prone president.

Only last week Mr. Yeltsin had to be reminded that he was not opening a press conference, but rather talks with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

In one of his best known and most alarming lapses, during a visit to Sweden at the end of last year, Mr. Yeltsin mistakenly named Germany and Japan as nuclear powers and erroneously announced that Russia would unilaterally reduce its nuclear warheads.

The announcement that four government ministers would remain in the cabinet comes after a week of breathless political spring-cleaning which began on March 23 with the dismissal of the entire cabinet and a vow to replace slack ministers with more dynamic young reformers.

As a sign of his intent, Mr. Yeltsin picked Sergei Kiriyenko as his new protégé and candidate for

prime minister to replace the ousted Viktor Chernomyrdin, and promised plenty of fresh faces and a new slimline government to breathe new life into reform.

But Mr. Primakov, 68, had been widely expected to retain his post after the Kremlin said Mr. Yeltsin valued his work highly.

The new government line-up and the programme Mr. Kiriyenko draws up are critical to his efforts to persuade a hostile, Communist-packed Duma to approve his candidacy.

Mr. Primakov, who was a Soviet career apparatchik for more than three decades and who has carved a more independent Russian foreign policy than predecessor Andrei Kozhevnikov, is generally popular with the old guard who still pack the parliament's benches.

Mr. Zadornov for his part, who was first given the finance portfolio in November, hails from the liberal opposition Yabloko bloc, which Mr. Kiriyenko has approached in his efforts to secure backing for his new team and programme.

Yabloko's 46 seats in parliament could be important to the young Kremlin neophyte during first-round parliament debate, though even Mr. Kiriyenko's allies

have admitted that his candidacy could be thrown out during Friday's vote due to the hostility of the large Communist bloc.

Close Kiriyenko ally Boris Nemtsov, first deputy premier in the outgoing government, said Mr. Kiriyenko would "sooner or later" be confirmed, echoing sentiments expressed by the pro-government Our Home is Russia bloc which said the young technocrat could well have difficulties in the first round.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov has said Mr. Kiriyenko is too inexperienced to become the second most important figure in the country, and Tuesday threatened to block the appointment by staging a filibuster if necessary.

In response to increasingly hostile noises from the Communist camp, the Kremlin reminded the Duma Tuesday that there was nothing anti-constitutional in Mr. Yeltsin's initiative, and urged the parliament to resolve the issue in "civilised" fashion.

"Everything which the president has done was strictly in line with the constitution and the Duma has no claims to make to the head of state in this respect," Mr. Yastrzhembsky was quoted by Interfax as saying.



Bomb disposal experts investigate the site of a bomb blast in Azizabad area of central Karachi. Police said the morning rush-hour blasts in the city's central district were caused by time-devices and took place within a km of each other, less than 50 minutes apart (Reuters photo)

## Karachi market bombs kill two and spark new tension

KARACHI (AFP) — Two bombs rocked the centre of Pakistan's largest city Karachi Tuesday, killing two people, injuring 19 and sparking new tension.

The bombs concealed in packets were fitted with timers, an official of the bomb disposal squad said. Both went off within minutes of each other as shops opened for business.

The toll would have been much higher had the bombs exploded a little later when markets are packed with customers, an official said.

The blasts were near the headquarters of the powerful Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) which blamed a dissident faction, the MQM-Haqiqi. An MQM leader, Farooq Sattar, said the bombs were part of a "conspiracy" against the organisation.

The first bomb exploded around 9:00 a.m. near a shop in the Ayesha Manzil market, killing one person and injuring 12, police said. It dam-

aged several shops and shattered the windows of adjacent buildings.

Minutes later another bomb exploded in front of a jewellery shop in the Meena Bazar one kilometre away. Police and ambulance sources said eight people were injured. One later died and five of the others were seriously hurt.

A bomb expert said the devices were similar to two bombs in suburban Karachi on Feb. 28 which killed eight Afghan refugees and injured 25. Angry businessmen pulled down shutters and markets were shut down Tuesday. Shopkeepers chanted slogans against the government.

"We feel threatened," said Rashid Ahmed, a shopkeeper in the Ayesha Manzil area.

"The government has failed to provide protection to the people and property," said Iftikhar Meghani, a goldsmith in Meena Bazar.

No group claimed responsibility for the bombings.

At least 25 people have died in eastern Karachi in the past week in violence that police say is part of the battle between the MQM and the MQM-Haqiqi.

"The MQM is target of Haqiqi terrorists," said Mr. Sattar, a senior minister in the Sindh provincial government.

Police last week rounded up scores of rival political activists following the new wave of violence. The MQM and the MQM-Haqiqi faction have blamed each other for last week's killings.

The MQM said 13 of its activists and supporters were among more than 20 people gunned down on March 23 and March 24. The rival faction claimed 10 of its members were among the dead.

Paramilitary troops and police have been deployed in sensitive areas of Karachi which has a history of political, ethnic and religious violence. More than 3,000 people have been killed in the past three years.

## Japanese woman held in murder enquiry commits suicide

PARIS (AFP) — Ayuka Ameda, held on suspicion of inciting the murder of a Japanese architect found in a freezer, has committed suicide, police said Tuesday.

The 38-year-old Japanese woman was found dead early Monday after hanging herself from a cord cobbled together from rags and sheets.

She was being held in the Fresnes jail hospital in the Paris suburbs where she was receiving treatment for a serious illness.

She was placed in custody earlier this month on suspicion of inciting her servant to murder architect Akira Ojima, 57, who was found dead in the freezer of a suburban Paris house on March 19.

Ojima's body was found in the western Paris suburb

of Nanterre nearly a fortnight after he disappeared on March 9.

Police suspect the motive may have been a quarrel over money. Ameda had accused him of taking her money.

The woman was described as being of noble Japanese birth and resident of a fashionable Paris district.

Jean-Pierre Caroll Oud Rollen, 54, described as the women's servant, is being held as the prime murder suspect.

The victim never returned from an appointment with another Japanese in central Paris earlier this month, police said. He was apparently lured into a trap, kidnapped, then murdered three days later.

Ojima's sister raised the alarm on March 9. Two days later, she received a

letter from him saying he was in danger.

Another man, Yuji Nakamura, 38, was being held on suspicion of complicity in kidnap and murder. Police believe he was the mystery man who served as bait to lure Ojima into the trap near the Saint Lazare railway station in the centre of Paris.

Police said the victim was taken to a rundown house in the Paris suburb of Nanterre. They said he was held there and allegedly beaten and mistreated for three days.

On the fourth, Caroll, described by police as an "uncommon personality," allegedly first injured the victim with a bullet in the back of the neck using a pistol disguised as a pen, then strangled him and put the corpse in a meat freezer.

## India's government risking arms race with nuclear stance

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A senior Indian opposition leader Tuesday warned the new Hindu nationalist-led government's nuclear policy was in danger of triggering an "arms race."

Pranab Mukherjee, speaking in the upper house of parliament, warned the coalition's decision to review the country's defence policy could have "serious implications."

The government, which came to power following February-March elections, said in its agenda it would "exercise the option to induct nuclear weapons."

The policy created an uproar, particularly in neighbouring Pakistan. Defence Minister George Fernandes responded by saying no decision had yet been taken over production of nuclear weapons, although he added India would "not fight shy" of acquiring nuclear weapons if needed.

Mr. Mukherjee said there had been an Indian consensus among governments for keeping open the nuclear option but he accused the coalition, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), of taking a unilateral decision.

He said it could "trigger an arms race in the sub-continent."

India, which carried out its one nuclear test in 1974, last year refused to sign a global test ban treaty, arguing it was discriminatory and did not include a time-bound framework for global disarmament.

Neighbouring Pakistan, like India, is regarded as a "threshold" nuclear state with the capacity to make weapons at short notice. The two countries, which have fought three wars since their independence and partition in 1947, both deny having build nuclear weapons.

## Missiles seized by France in Iraq used in Rwanda crash

PARIS (AFP) — Soviet-origin made missiles seized by French forces in Iraq were responsible for the 1994 downing of a jet that caused the deaths of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi and paved the way for Rwanda's bloodbath. Le Figaro daily said Tuesday.

The paper, whose allegations earlier this year of French involvement in the massacres have prompted a parliamentary enquiry, quoted a book and two former officers as saying the SAM 16 Gimlet missiles that shot down the plane were part of French stocks.

One of the officers, who asked to remain anonymous, said there had been a request for the two ground-to-air missiles between November 1993 and February 1994 from people close to one of France's top gendarmes, Paul Barril.

But Mr. Barril "formally" denied involvement in a statement to AFP and said the paper's allegations were "implausible and incoherent."

Mr. Barril was formerly the second in charge of

the elite GIGN paramilitary unit. Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundian counterpart Cyprien Ntaryamira died in the April 6, 1994, crash that unleashed the Rwandan genocide. The exact circumstances of the downing of the plane have never been clarified.

Monday, the French foreign ministry declined comment on a report that French crew members aboard the plane were "in official service."

The Falcon-50 executive jet had reportedly been loaned to Mr. Habyarimana by French President François Mitterrand. France said at the time that the crew worked for a private company but honoured the dead men in a military ceremony after the crash.

The carnage that followed the shooting claimed between 500,000 and 800,000 lives of minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus by Hutu troops and extremist militias within less than four months, according to estimates from U.N. officials.

## Shanghai newspaper pans actress in Gere film

SHANGHAI (AFP) — A Shanghai newspaper Tuesday criticised Chinese actress Bai Ling for selling out her country in the film "Red Corner" in which she plays the female lead to Richard Gere.

The Wenhui Bao daily said the "political thriller" was another anti-China performance by Richard Gere and what angered people most was that Bai had sold out her country to land the leading role.

Mr. Gere, an activist for Tibetan independence, plays a U.S. businessman who is framed for murder and sentenced to death in Beijing but finds a Chinese lawyer played by Bai who wins him an acquittal.

The report said Gere's action was not surprising because he was a "cast in iron" anti-China activist.

"What is surprising is that Bai is waving the flag with Gere... Bai in order to get into A-rated films has done what other actresses were unwilling to do by selling her country," the report said. "It is very sad and pitiful."

The report said Bai, 28, who became an actress the age of 15, was working at Xi'an Film Studio until she left for the United States a few years ago where she had landed only bit parts until "Red Corner" came along.

## 'Germans did not trust Papon to carry out their orders'

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — World War II archives prove the German occupation forces in France grew increasingly suspicious of Maurice Papon's willingness to carry out their orders to round up and deport Jews, his lawyer said Tuesday.

During 1942 and 1943, the Germans gradually took over the task themselves, effectively "short-circuiting" the Bordeaux Prefecture where Mr. Papon was secretary-general in charge of Jewish affairs," Jean-Marc Varaut said in closing arguments.

Mr. Papon, 87, is charged with crimes against humanity in the roundup and deportation of some 1,500 Jews, including hundreds of children, who ultimately went to their deaths in Nazi camps.

He is the first French wartime official to be so charged in a modern-day trial, and his lawyers have argued he is being used as a scapegoat to purge France's guilt over the then Vichy government's collaboration with the Nazi occupiers.

The state is asking 20 years imprisonment. The trial is scheduled to end Wednesday when Mr. Papon speaks on his own behalf. A verdict is expected that same evening.

The prosecution charges Mr. Papon collaborated with the Nazis in organising eight train convoys of Bordeaux-area Jews from the Merignac holding camp near here to the huge camp in Drancy near Paris, where the deportees

were sent on to Germany and Poland.

However Mr. Varaut, quoting from copious notes, letters and documents from the wartime Gironde Prefecture here, said they showed Germans gradually took over the task completely from the prefecture, dissatisfied with its "delays, questions, temporising."

The records show, said the attorney, that many women, children, sick and elderly were exempted from the convoys in which Mr. Papon had a hand, and that he had warned leaders of the Jewish community when he had advance information on roundups.

But once the Nazis cut the prefecture out of the loop there were no more exemptions, he said. "For the Nazis, a Jew was a Jew, not a human being," Mr. Varaut intoned in a deep baritone that stilled the courtroom.

Monday, Mr. Varaut said Mr. Papon never knew of the existence of the Nazi death camps to which the deportees were sent.

"They were the best-kept secret of the war," he told the nine jurors and three judges who will decide Mr. Papon's fate.

Mr. Varaut has argued that there is no justification for trying an individual for the "collective guilt" of a government, and that the acts of which Mr. Papon is now accused were not crimes at the time.

"Every aspect of the prosecution's case was known in the post-war period, but no action was

ever taken," said the lawyer.

"These were not crimes in 1944, or in 1948 or in 1954," he said. "In fact it took more than 30 years for them to become crimes, to evolve as such in men's minds."

The Nuremberg war crimes trials which brought Nazi SS officers to book never reproached the French civilian government, nor any of its civil servants, he said.

In fact, he noted, Mr. Papon went on to a distinguished public career that included police chief of Paris, member of parliament and cabinet minister under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

It was not until a French newspaper exposed Mr. Papon's past in 1981, decades later and in a totally changed political and legal climate, that a groundswell began for action against him, said Mr. Varaut.

François Mitterrand, elected president later that year, stone-walled Mr. Papon's prosecution throughout his 14-year term of office, rueful of dusting off France's humiliating defeat and collaboration with the Germans.

Mr. Mitterrand's successor, Jacques Chirac, became the first French head of state to formally apologise for the country's war-time treatment of Jews, and it was in that atmosphere of contrition that Mr. Papon was finally brought to trial.

## Armenia's Kocharian poised for presidency

YEREVAN (AFP) — Karabakh war hero Robert Kocharian was poised Tuesday to become Armenia's next president after securing a handsome lead over the republic's Soviet-era leader Karen Demirchian in a run-off vote.

At 1:00 p.m. (0800 GMT) with more than half of the votes tallied, acting president Kocharian led Mr. Demirchian by more than 25 percentage points, scoring 62.55 per cent of the vote to the former Communist boss's 37.45 per cent, according to the election commission.

Given the recent history of contested elections in Armenia which have led to furious fraud charges, the wide margin is seen as beneficial as it will soothe any possible lingering disputes over the conduct of the vote, officials said.

"This large victory is beneficial as it will minimise the importance of any possible contesting" of the outcome, one official at the central election commission told AFP.

Voting was in any case conducted in generally calm conditions, after international observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) criticised the first round vote a fortnight earlier as "deeply flawed."

The OSCE had warned it would not validate the final result unless urgent measures to prevent fraud were taken before Monday's run-off.

Of the 2.3 million people eligible to vote Monday, 52.8 per cent showed up at the polling stations — a lower turnout than in the election's first round, when 64 per cent of voters cast their ballots.

Mr. Kocharian, 43, was the leader of the Nagorno-Karabakh territory, the mostly Armenian populated enclave situated within Azerbaijan, during a six-year war of secession which ended in 1994.

His war-hero status and non-nonsense nationalism, coupled with pragmatic free-market policies and his power base as prime minister and acting president, made him a firm favourite for the vote and he emerged as a clear leader in the first round ballot two weeks ago.

The Karabakh factor has remained a key element in the run-off vote, particularly as the presidential vote was initially prompted by the resignation in February of Levon Ter-Petrosian over crumbling support for his own more conciliatory proposals for peace in the enclave.

Mr. Demirchian, 65, who ran Armenia for 14 years during the Soviet era, has played the nostalgia card strongly, and traded on his image as a practical politician who gets things done and champions social protection and cradle-to-grave welfare.

Monday's vote threw up several repetitions of the voting irregularities which dogged the March 16 first round and previous presidential elections before that, but it remained unclear if fraud would be cited.

Two incidents were reported in Yerevan. One involved a man stuffing several hundred voting slips into one ballot box before running away. Another was of leaflets hostile to Mr. Kocharian being distributed in some parts of the capital.

Casting his vote in a small Yerevan polling station, Mr. Kocharian declared: "We are of course trying to take account of remarks made by international observers in the first round. We have taken measures but you cannot rule out provocative incidents."

During a visit to another polling station, the presence of an OSCE observer team provoked a heated debate between representatives of the two rival candidates, each accusing the other of irregularities.

World  
Emotional  
Justice  
minister  
tables  
landmark  
apology to  
Maoris  
Returns  
Lufthansa  
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quality



## Emotional justice minister tables landmark apology to Maoris

WELLINGTON (AFP) — Justice Minister Doug Graham came close to tears in parliament Tuesday as he introduced a bill to close a century of injustices inflicted on New Zealand's south island Maori.

The 546-page Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Bill records the Crown's apology to the Ngai Tahu people for breaches of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi obligations and formalises the agreement, signed in October last year, giving Ngai Tahu 170 million NZ dollars (\$95.6 million) compensation.

The settlement honours the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi under which New Zealand became part of the British Empire and which promised the Maori people, including Ngai Tahu, were brutally dispossessed and although around 13 per cent of the population, they were marginalised.

Successive governments since 1975 have sought to remedy the injustices. In an emotional speech and at times close to tears, Mr. Graham detailed some of the injustices to Ngai Tahu.

"The Crown set out on a campaign to acquire as much land as possible, breached promises to set aside adequate reserves for Ngai Tahu, failed to preserve mahinga kai or food-gathering rights enjoyed for centuries and, as a result, at best inadvertently ensured that Ngai Tahu would indeed become marginalised," he said.

"Ever since, Ngai Tahu have waited for justice. Generations have come and gone but the cause was never abandoned. Each generation passed the burden of the grievance to the next. For Ngai Tahu, as with all claimants, the grievance almost became more important than life itself."

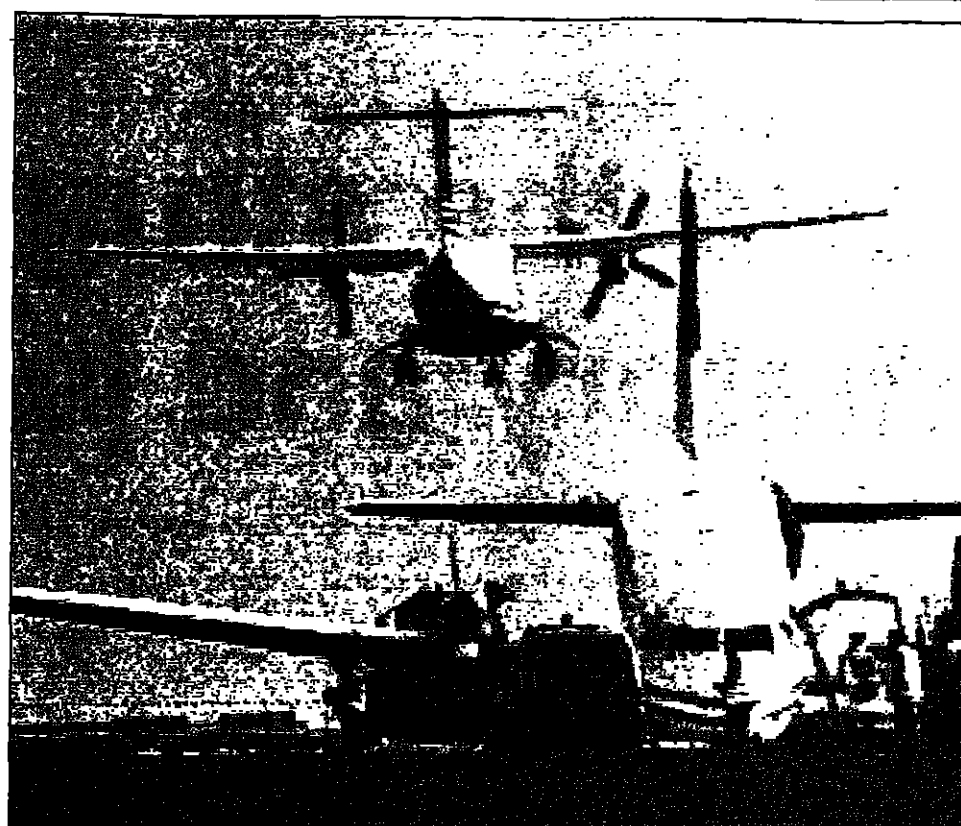
Mr. Graham said six years of negotiations eventually settled the claim. "Now the final chapter is being written," he said.

A group of about 40 Ngai Tahu in the public gallery sang a waiata (song) at the end of his speech.

Speaking to reporters on parliament's front steps after the bill had been introduced, tribe spokesman Sir Tipene O'Regan said it was not the final stage for Ngai Tahu, but the beginning of the final stage.

"There's a long way to go yet."

"It's the beginning of the end of the biggest thing I and my colleagues will ever do."



An aircraft lands over the crashed plane which was carrying Leeds United soccer players at Stansted Airport. The accident occurred after the aircraft lost power when the starboard engine exploded shortly after take off, slightly injuring two people (Reuters photo)

## Plane carrying Leeds United soccer team crashes

STANSTED, England (AFP) — An aeroplane carrying the English Leeds United football team burst into flames and crashed on take-off from London's Stansted airport early Tuesday.

No players were reported to have been injured, although two people out of the 36 passengers and four crew on board were said by police to have suffered minor injuries.

One witness, BBC reporter Bryn Law, who was among those aboard, told BBC Radio that the aircraft had climbed up to about 150 feet when one of its engines burst into flames.

"It was apparently 100

to 150 feet in the air when we noticed that the engine to our right hand side had started burning and then exploded and the pilot had to crash-land the plane."

"The engine caught fire ... it was blazing, there was petrol pouring out of it and everyone was ordered to an emergency evacuation of the plane."

Police said the aircraft suffered a "mechanical failure during take-off", leading the pilot to abandon the attempt.

"The take-off was aborted and resulted in the aircraft leaving the runway, where it crashed and the front undercarriage collapsed," said

police inspector Mark Harman.

Emergency services evacuated passengers and crew from the chartered aeroplane, operated by the carrier Gemstone.

The players were returning to Leeds in the north of England after a Premiership league match against the London club West Ham. Stansted airport opened an hour late Tuesday morning as a result of the incident, and officials said air traffic would continue to be affected for several hours.

The plane remained where it came to a halt off the main runway, its nose buried in the grass verge.

## Emotional justice minister tables landmark apology to Maori people

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## Romania hunting new premier after Ciorbea quits

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Romania was searching for a new prime minister Tuesday after embattled government leader Victor Ciorbea resigned to end a prolonged political crisis.

Commentators welcomed Mr. Ciorbea's announcement Monday that he is to quit to resolve three months of turmoil in his ruling coalition over how to tackle Bucharest's economic woes.

"Honest but lacking experience, Ciorbea ... lacked the strength to take on his political backers when they steered him down the wrong path," said the popular daily Evenimentul Zilei.

President Emil Constantinescu is expected to name a new premier Thursday after extensive consultations with key party leaders. He has named Interior Minister Gavril Dejeu as interim premier.

Most commentators agree

that three candidates are vying to succeed Mr. Ciorbea, all from his ruling National Peasants Christian Democratic Party (PNP-CD).

They are: party Secretary-General Radu Vasile; Sorin Dimitriu, head of the state privatisation body, tipped as Mr. Constantinescu's favourite; and Trade and Industry Minister Mircea Ciuraru.

Forty-three year-old Ciorbea, who was widely held responsible for failures in economic reform in Romania, went on national television Monday evening to announce his departure.

"I had hoped till the last moment my detractors would have had the courage to put down a censure motion in parliament. But they did not do so," said the former labour union leader.

His coalition partners hope his departure will at last end a government crisis

that erupted in January when the Democratic Party stormed out of the government after one of their ministers was sacked.

The pro-reform ruling coalition came to power in November 1996 elections. Mr. Ciorbea, close to Mr. Constantinescu, was held responsible for the failure of economic reforms last year.

Mr. Ciorbea has always insisted he was ready to resign but that the political line of his own Christian Democrats prevented him from doing so.

Few Romanian commentators regretted Mr. Ciorbea's decision. "Victor Ciorbea, double resignation," pointed out Evenimentul Zilei noting that he had also resigned as Bucharest mayor.

The popular Ziua said the premier "deserves no compassion," while the Curierul National lamented "Victor

Ciorbea is paying personally for the government's mistakes."

"All the parties from the ruling coalition should take their share of the responsibility for the dramatic situation in which Romania finds itself."

Mr. Ciorbea was the founder in 1990 of Romania's first free labour union. He was elected mayor of the capital, Bucharest, in 1996, before taking over as premier in November of the same year.

His government had been pressing ahead with unpopular austerity policies aimed at overhauling the Romanian economy and hoped to join the EU and NATO early in the next millennium.

The political crisis has been coupled with economic woes including a surge in inflation from 57 per cent in 1996 to 151 per cent last year.

## Annan welcomes China's invitation to Robinson

BEIJING (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan Tuesday welcomed China's decision to invite U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson to visit Beijing.

"I am particularly encouraged that they have invited Mary Robinson," Mr. Annan told reporters after meeting Chinese vice-premier Qian Qichen.

He said no date was set, although Mrs. Robinson has said she hopes to be in China before the end of the year.

China has in recent months signed the U.N. Covenant on Social, Cultural and Economic Rights and promised to sign its sister agreement, the U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the near future.

Mr. Qian gave no details as to when the second covenant might be signed, but said Beijing would comply with the undertakings once it had ratified the document.

"As to when we will sign, you will know when we will sign it and after signing we will comply. But some issues we need to look into and study for example, areas where provisions are not harmonious with Chinese law," he told reporters.

He also said Beijing had hoped Mrs. Robinson, who was invited in January, could make an early trip to China.

"We hope Mrs. Robinson can pay a visit at an early date. Our proposed date was earlier, but not to her convenience," he added.

Mrs. Robinson's visit to China will be the first of a U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

## Climate of optimism in Northern Ireland peace talks

BELFAST (AFP) — Northern Ireland peace negotiations continued Tuesday amid fresh optimism after the talks chairman George Mitchell said there was a "realistic" chance of a settlement by the April 9 deadline.

The British and Irish prime ministers, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, meanwhile stepped up their direct involvement in the process to give it extra momentum.

In the afternoon in London, Mr. Blair was to receive John Hume, leader of the large moderate Catholic nationalist party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), after meeting Sunday with David Trimble, head of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the main Protestant party in the province.

Mr. Blair was also scheduled to meet with his Irish counterpart in London late Wednesday, and it looked increasingly likely that the two men will come to Belfast next week to preside over the conclusion of nearly two years of talks on Northern Ireland's future.

Intensive bilateral meetings began Tuesday morning between Northern Ireland political parties, the presidency of the talks and London and Dublin representatives at Stormont Castle, near Belfast.

The mediator and former U.S. Senator Mitchell late Monday welcomed the partici-

pants' commitment as a marathon countdown session of talks proceeded in the few days left to conclude a deal which would be submitted to referenda in the north and south of Ireland on May 22.

The climate has changed since Monday.

The negotiators, who used to limit their sessions to two and a half days a week, interspersed with frequent and stormy appearances before the press, left Stormont at 9:00 p.m. Monday, without making any comments, and are to meet in continuous session until next Thursday.

Unusually smiling, Mr. Mitchell Monday judged it "realistic to believe that an agreement can be reached by April 9", welcoming the "businesslike approach and determination" of the participants.

The negotiators' feeling is that the game is being played out as much in London and Dublin as in Belfast. The two governments have a precise framework in mind with which they are trying to broker a compromise between their natural allies.

The British are putting pressure on the unionists, who want to maintain strong links between Britain and Northern Ireland, while the Irish are doing the same with the nationalists, who from Gerry Adams (leader of the Sinn Fein political wing of the IRA) to John Hume are pushing for

a united Ireland sooner or later.

Mr. Mitchell could soon submit an outline deal to the participants, sources close to the negotiations said in Belfast.

Numerous obstacles still exist within the talks on achieving the consensus which London and Dublin want — a local assembly, a north-south body, and a "council of the isles". These institutional changes will give Dublin a say in Northern Ireland affairs.

Nationalists want to give the north-south body real powers, while the unionists are bitterly opposed to anything that would amount to an "embryonic all-Ireland government."

On the question of the assembly, the majority Protestants want it to govern on the basis of a first-past-the-post system, while the nationalists are pushing for a coalition government in which all political parties in the parliament would take part.

The unionists, who have already had to swallow the principle of cooperation with Dublin and the prospect that the IRA will not hand over its weapons before an accord, have always in the past rejected the idea of governing with Sinn Fein.

The nationalists for their part, resigned to not seeing a united Ireland emerge from these talks, are keen that the accord should be as "transitional" as possible towards that ultimate goal.

## China, Annan discuss four-party peace talks on Korea

BEIJING (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and Chinese vice-premier Qian Qichen discussed the four-party peace talks on the Korean Peninsula Tuesday and agreed they must continue.

"We discussed four-party talks and expressed hope that progress will be made. We believe that it is the only direction to go," Mr. Annan

told reporters after meeting with Mr. Qian for 90 minutes at the state guest house.

China, along with the United States and the two Koreas has held two rounds of inconclusive talks aimed at finding a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The last round broke up in Geneva in mid-March after North Korea insisted the removal of U.S. troops sta-

tioned in South Korea be on the agenda for talks.

China went to North Korea's aid in the 1950-53 Korean war and declared its ties with Pyongyang were "as close as lips and teeth."

But in 1992, Beijing established diplomatic ties with Pyongyang's rival, Seoul, and has since maintained an even keel between the two nations.

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is independent daily newspaper published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.  
 جريدة يومية مستقلة باللغة الإنجليزية، المنشورة من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Weapons deepen problems

A RECENT report issued by the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies shows that the Middle East and the Gulf regions remain the principal importers of weapons. Arms sell in this part of the world on a scale that far exceeds other regions including Africa, Asia and Latin America. The report paints a gloomy picture revealing that Middle Eastern states have spent more of their GNP on weapons between 1985-95 than even NATO countries. In real terms, the countries of the Middle East spent nearly \$80 billion on armament between 1987-90, about \$50 billion between 1991-94 and nearly the same amount in the last several years. The Gulf countries did not fare much better. They spent about \$60 billion on their military arsenals between 1987-90 and about \$80 billion between 1991-96.

No matter how one looks at these alarming figures, the picture that emerges is that peace-making in the Middle East and the end of the Gulf war in 1991 have not reduced the region's thirst for armament. On the Arab-Israeli front, Israel and its Arab neighbours continued to pour money on their defences to the tune of \$20 billion between 1991 (when the Madrid peace conference was convened) and 1996, a period that saw the ratification of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan and the signing of the Oslo accords with the Palestinians. Israel alone has spent about \$5 billion in those years and the Arab states about \$13 billion. All these figures of course do not include the purchase or manufacture of secret and mass-destruction weapons that could cost much more. They also do not include funds spent on the infrastructure or on training.

All this the countries of the Middle East and the Gulf did at the expense of their socio-economic needs to end poverty, unemployment and disparities between the rich and the poor.

This is a sad state of affairs. As long as these countries continue to amass conventional and non-conventional weapons, there is little hope that peace will come to this region. As Israel, for example, regards its security only in territorial expansion and the acquisition of mass destruction weapons, other countries will continue their arms build-up and purchase defensive weapons.

The region is thus caught in a vicious circle of armament and more armament with no end in sight. The culprit is clear enough: The absence of real peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours, the lack of strong foundation for regional peace and the weapon manufacturers' lust to sell more weapons. As HRH Crown Prince Hassan continuously reminds us, the region should not be viewed only through the triangle of Israel, oil and armament. Armies do not bring in development and prosperity, but only destruction. If all those funds were spent on education and humanitarian concerns, a new culture of peace would have already engulfed us.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Rai's Hani Saoudi urged the government to lower the price of bread and wheat flour as the prices of these commodities have dropped on the world market. The bread prices should be lowered by 20 per cent for all citizens, thus bringing the price of a kilo to 150 fils down from the present 180 fils, and a kilo of flour which now sells for 178 fils to 145 fils, suggested the writer. The present government has to admit also that the previous government in 1996 had unjustifiably over-biked prices and thus drew public outcries which it was forced to appease by offering citizens a cash subsidy each month, Saoudi said. He said the government recently bought 50,000 tonnes of American wheat for JD100 a tonne, a price which allows the government to sell the wheat to the mills at a lower cost and to make a small profit. Should the government accept the idea, he said, it would be offering the public a great service and would leave a very positive economic and social impact on the population at a time when the economic situation of most citizens is generally on the retreat.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Hilmi Asmar said Syria and Lebanon did well in refusing Israel's conditional offer to withdraw from southern Lebanon. The writer said that when the Madrid 1991 conference was convened the Arabs were unified in dealing with Israel and refused the Camp David style of separate dealings with the Jewish state. But when the Palestinians concluded the Oslo accord with Israel, Jordan followed by concluding the Wadi Araba peace treaty with the Jewish state, according to the writer who said the recent Israeli bid to withdraw from Lebanon was an attempt to deal with the Lebanese and the Syrians separately. Asmar said the Syrians and the Lebanese did not fall into the trap and they must have learned a lesson from what is happening in Palestine where Israel is negotiating to withdraw from less than 10 per cent of the occupied lands, disregarding the provisions of the Oslo accord. He said Syria has the right to link Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and Syria and to have a say in this matter because it was Syria that provided the Hizbollah fighters with logistic and other assistance enabling it to deal defeat on the Israelis in southern Lebanon.

## Washington Watch

## Ireland and the struggle between history and justice

By Dr. James J. Zogby

PEACE TALKS designed to resolve the conflict in Northern Ireland are entering a crucial phase. The major parties to the negotiations have set an early April deadline for themselves so that an agreement, if one is reached, can be submitted to voters in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in mid-May. At stake in the negotiations are issues of justice, history and territory — issues with which Arabs are quite familiar.

In many ways the Irish question parallels the Palestine question. In recognition of this fact, the two peoples have, over the years, demonstrated solidarity with one another. Irish Republican manifestos in the early part of this century express their support for the "Arab people struggling against British imperialism." This has continued up to the present day with the Irish government frequently taking strong positions in support of both Palestinian and Lebanese rights.

The roots of the oppression visited upon the Irish and the Arabs are similar.

Long before the British introduced their brand of settler colonialism to Palestine, using the Zionist movement as their willing agents, they had imposed their regime on Ireland. For centuries the dominated Irish Catholic community lived under harsh British rule. They were denied freedom and basic rights in their own land. On a number of occasions, they rebelled and were brutally subdued. They were imprisoned or forced into exile. Their lands were confiscated.

The long and brutal history of British conquest took an immense toll on the land and its people. There are physical reminders everywhere. In every part of Ireland, there are the remains of destroyed Irish churches, castles, and forts, commingling with walls and mansions built by the occupiers to reinforce their rule.

The denial of Irish national and economic rights often had devastating human consequences. During the potato famine of the 1840s, for example, Ireland lost almost all of its people — over one million to starvation and another one million who were forced to emigrate. What is not widely known outside of Ireland were the genocidal aspects of this famine.

Throughout the years of this "great famine" Ireland continued to export huge quantities of food to feed the British Empire. The Irish starved to death because they were not permitted to eat what their land produced. All they were allowed was the potato — when it became infected by blight, they starved.

This history of oppression is deeply imbedded in the consciousness of many in Ireland today. During the centuries of British rule, the Irish repeatedly rebelled. The rebellion after World War I, while exacting a heavy toll, finally resulted in Irish independence — but not for all of Ireland. The 26 counties of the south were declared the Republic of Ireland. The six counties of the north, in which lived the greatest concentration of Protestants, remained part of the United Kingdom.

The dream of a united Ireland, free of British rule, continues to dominate the political thinking of Irish nationalists in both the Republic and the north. At the same time the north's Protestant majority has fervently held to their desire to remain British citizens connected to the United Kingdom. The Irish dream of a united Ireland is expressed in the constitution of the Republic of Ireland wherein articles two and three, in part, declare that "the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland."

its islands and territorial seas." As citizens of the north, the Catholic population continued to suffer discrimination in employment, housing and politics. Their struggle for full civil rights paralleled their aspiration to be part of a unified Ireland. When these Irish nationalists, as they are called, rose up in demonstrations, they were brutally suppressed. This suppression only served to further embolden them. As a result, for the last three decades the north has been a bloody battleground between some Irish nationalists who have waged a violent campaign against Britain and British forces and extremist Protestant militias who have wreaked retribution on the Catholic community.

After 30 years of violence, during which time almost 4,000 have been killed, the governments of Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland together with most of the parties of Northern Ireland embarked on peace talks to resolve the conflict. That talks are taking place is significant — but after more than six months of negotiations deep gaps still remain between the parties.

At issue are two conflicting ideologies with goals that are essentially incompatible. Both sides insist they support a democratic outcome that supports majority rule and the right of "consent." To the nationalists that is interpreted to mean the majority of all Irish who seek the unity of Ireland; to the Unionists "consent" means the right of the majority in the north to determine their fate — which continues to link them to Britain. These are the views of the competing parties of the north. The governments of Britain and Ireland, tired of decades of conflict, have sought to create a compromise framework that would reconcile the conflicting claims. This general framework involves some of the following elements:

The creation of a north-south body, presumably comprised of ministers, that would have some limited authority over mainly economic matters — this is in deference to the nationalists who want some semblance of north-south unity.

The election of an assembly in the north — in deference to the majority unionists who want to retain their status. This assembly of the north will participate in an east-west union with other elected assemblies from the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Britain.

The Republic of Ireland will modify its constitution, especially articles two and three — in order to ease the concerns of the Unionists. Great Britain will alter its Government of Ireland Act, which defines British control over the north. Needless to say, these proposals have sparked an intense debate throughout the whole of Ireland.

The debate amongst the Irish over the requirement that the Republic of Ireland change articles two and three is especially fascinating. This issue fills the daily Irish press, radio call-in programmes and is the subject of a number of public events. The prime minister of the republic who is committed to this change is facing a rebellion from some in his own party. His position, that the imperative to make peace should overrule ideology, is tempered by his assurance that the changes he will propose to the constitution will not do fundamental damage to the definition of the Irish nation. Furthermore the prime minister has sought to calm his supporters by insisting he will propose that changes be made only in the context of a total agreement on all outstanding issues.

The prime minister has done this in response to internal party pressure that maintains that changes to their consti-

tution should only be made if the British agree to drop their rule over the north. Other Irish nationalists are deeply offended with the notion of any change at all. For these nationalists, both north and south, Ireland is the island and they refuse to accept its partition and the subsequent loss of Irish identity to any part or any people of the "Irish" territory. At present, however, it appears that the views of the government leading to a compromise are supported by the majority of Irish, north and south. For this majority, the violence in the north has been unsettling. They want it to end. They want to build their society and get on with their lives. As one put it "we can't continue to shape our future with the dead stones of the past. I would rather have the reality of peace, than the illusion of unity."

Such an assertion, of course, only serves to inflame the ideological nationalists. While reflecting on the similarities between aspects of this Irish debate and the Palestinian debate over their charter and the peace process, it is interesting to note the differences as well. In the first place the Irish begin from a point where they control 26 counties and have a republic. In Palestine, it was the Jewish settlers who won. In Palestine, it is the Israeli state that is demanding that the occupied Palestinians change their charter, while no similar demand has been placed on the Israelis to change either the charters of their parties (that support Eretz Israel) or their racist law of return and the absentee property law that allows Israel to continue to dispossess Palestinians and Israeli Arabs of land and their rights.

In the case of Ireland, the oppressed minority community of the dismembered north has, to some extent, the support of the state to the south.

Because the Palestinian track has been severed from the other Arab tracks to the peace process, the occupied Palestinians stand alone in a vulnerable position, with no leverage. Finally the Irish have worked in recent years to cultivate support from the Irish American community which has some strong nationalist currents within it. Despite the centrality of the U.S.-British relationship, the Irish American community has made inroads in U.S. politics and created sufficient pressure requiring the administration to balance its British policy with its Irish policy. This has contributed to a more or less evenhanded U.S. policy in the Irish peace process.

Even if an agreement, like the one proposed by the two governments is accepted by the major competing parties in the North, it is not clear that it will bring immediate peace to Ireland. Nationalists will continue to aspire to regain their lost rights and Unionists will not easily accept any move toward Irish unity.

The legacy of a long history of oppression and racism will continue to take its toll on the Irish, as it continues to take its toll in the Middle East. The Irish, like the Arabs, don't easily forget their history. But, as those who seek peace point out, history is important. But history can either be mastered by our actions and our determination to create a new reality, or history can be a tyrant that masters us and locks us in the past. The reality in Ireland, like the Middle East, is that there are, for better or worse, two distinct peoples who now live in one land. Just as the nationalists must recognise this and accept it, the other party must recognise that they live in an Irish sea and must accommodate themselves to coexistence and equality. History can be overcome, but only through justice.

## Smart machines, and why we fear them

By Astro Teller

PITTSBURGH — The cultural definition of artificial intelligence — or A.I., as it is known — goes something like this: "A.I. is the science of how to get machines to do the things they do in the movies." No wonder the subject makes some people nervous.

The popular media portray artificial intelligence as one of the heights of human accomplishment, but also as an inevitable catalyst for the downfall of our species. From Frankenstein through HAL to "The Terminator," our culture enjoys wallowing in the fear of our creations.

In the real world, we see much the same love-hate relationship. The Internet enraptures us, but also makes us wonder if computers are devouring our privacy and personalities. We're fascinated by whether a computer can beat Gary Kasparov at chess, but when it does we're deluged with nervous commentary on what it all means.

These are the same understandable but misguided fears that, not so long ago, induced people to burn midwives at the stake as witches. When we fear the unknown and the new view of ourselves that naturally accompanies knowledge, we cloud our vision and block our path to achieving an enlightened civilisation.

The real goal of A.I. is to build devices that can perceive, reason, learn and act at or above human performance levels. But even that definition makes people uncomfortable. The most prevalent argument against A.I. is similar to the popular argument against cloning: the "don't mess with Mother Nature" defence.

Unlike our fear of cloning, however, our discomfort with A.I. stems from an entrenched desire in Western culture to believe that humanity's place in the world is privileged, unique and superior.

Recent successes in artificial intelligence clearly tend towards intelli-

gent aids, not ecological competitors. Cars are beginning to drive themselves using A.I. techniques. Factories now monitor themselves and request maintenance before breakdowns occur. A.I. programmes can act as real-time translators, mediating phone calls between people who don't share a language. My television uses A.I. to quiet the commercials. Your VCR may well use it to reduce on-screen noise when playing a worn or damaged tape.

But the question of when A.I. programmes will match or exceed human mental performance in various areas is a reasonable one. In some arenas, the answer is "today." A.I. machines are proving math theorems, sorting mail and putting paintbrush to canvas like the masters.

When A.I. will clear other mental hurdles, notably "self-awareness," is a largely subjective matter. Which is to say that when "it" happens depends very much on what you mean by "it." The Wright brothers' "Flyer" was a plane, even though it was missing most features of a Boeing 747. I make this distinction because people have a way of raising the bar as artificial intelligence makes progress, so that they don't have to admit that machines can be creative or intelligent.

Why is this so hard for us? I think three psychological forces have generated our antagonistic view of an admittedly volatile area of science:

All people are xenophobes to some extent. Evolution has, with good reason, dictated that animals will fear the "other." Thus we are all cautious of differences in ethnicity, gender, social class and so on. Imagine how magnified those fears become when a culture confronts something as potentially alien as an artificial intelligence. Will you trust your child with a robotic chauffeur, even knowing that, statistically, it will get into fewer accidents than a human driver? If not, isn't that a form of bigotry?

All people are Luddites to some

extent. Who can blame them? A Luddite fears change that threatens job security. But history has shown us that when some jobs disappear, others are created. The Luddite in us is often just our unwillingness to learn the skills required to keep up. Unlike xenophobia, however, Luddism is caused by misunderstanding, not evolutionary necessity.

All people are narcissists to some extent. Five hundred years ago, the Copernican revolution showed that Earth circles the sun, not the converse: people became upset that their world was no longer the physical centre of the universe. Eventually most everyone got over it, largely because they still believed that humans were the purpose for the universe.

Some 350 years later the Darwinian revolution undermined that belief: the universe, instead of having been created for Homo sapiens, actually created us, and very recently, but many of us have recovered from that shock, too, probably because we still believe that humans are the centre of the mental universe.

Today, A.I. threatens one of the last remaining things separating us from the "lesser" animals. But we should have learned by now that every time we give up a piece of our narcissism, we profit as a species.

The Copernican revolution, unsettling as it was, taught us about our universe. Similarly, the Darwinian revolution taught us about our bodies.

In the same way, building intelligent machines can teach us about our minds — about who we are — and those lessons will make our world a better place. To win that knowledge, though, our species will have to trade in another piece of its vanity.

The writer is a doctoral candidate in A.I. at Carnegie Mellon University, is the author of "Exegesis," a novel about the emotional development of an artificial intelligence. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

## LETTERS

www.dangerousideas

To the editor:

I READ in the Internet (Jordan Times, March 29, 1998) that the director of the Press and Publications Department has decided to ban the entry into Jordan of some books which, in his learned opinion carry "dangerous ideas!"

Will someone please inform those who insist on acting as Big Brother that 1984 has long since come and gone and that, on the eve of the third millennium, when the world is becoming one global village, access to information can no longer be curtailed by the over-zealous guardians of our thought. The days of the "manny state" are over. Ideas, per se, are never dangerous unless of course the said director is afraid that, when these new and different ideas (regardless of their merit), are pitted against the established way of thinking, they will show up the deficiencies and retardation of established thoughts, and consequently lead to the abandonment of conventional beliefs which, of course necessarily means that established ideologies were not worth keeping in the first place!! "DANGEROUS IDEAS" as John Stewart Mills once wrote should be particularly welcome and encouraged in order to appraise the worth or otherwise of our own systems of beliefs.

Dr. Kamal Tawfiq Nimri  
London

## Congratulations

To the editor:

I AM proud of what Jordan Times staff reporter Rana Hussein has achieved and has been doing by bringing to light the horrible practice of honour crimes. I congratulate her on winning the Reebok Human Rights Award!!

Ask what we can do to make a better Jordan — this is an example of a young woman's persistence and conscience, her caring about her fellow Jordanian, and the honour of her country. Her pen has power. Let's all follow her example, and, fight back.

Well done Rana. I have always admired your courage to tell the truth. Even though it hurts.

Alma Lou Annab  
Amman





## Badran: Multinational investors show interest to invest millions in Irbid's QIZ

By Ghalia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab and Foreign investors are flooding the 30-day-old Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ) in the northern city of Irbid to grab what officials term "a unique opportunity" of enjoying duty free access to U.S. markets with no reciprocal benefits.

With less than a month after the official designation of the QIZ, "heavy weight" industrialists have shown unexpected interest in investing millions of dollars in Jordan, which for years has suffered from lack of direct foreign investments, officials said.

According to Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) figures, overall local and foreign investments totalled JD 348 million in 1996. In 1997, local and foreign investments amounted to JD 379 million.

"Multinational investors

based in the United States, in Italy, at the Jebel Ali industrial zone in Dubai and elsewhere have come to Jordan with an interest to invest [millions of dollars] at the QIZ," IPC Deputy Director General Reem Badran told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

However, she acknowledged that it would be difficult to accommodate all these potential investments in the limited-space zone, set to undergo a 200-dunum expansion before the end of this year.

But this, she indicated, would not be adequate to house them all. Ms. Badran added, hence, new industries which meet QIZ eligibility requirements, could request designation of sub-QIZs, or plants set outside the current zone.

Jordan and Israel, in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, signed the QIZ agreement during the Middle East and North Africa

economic conference in Doha last November.

Under the deal, Jordanian and Israeli manufacturers should each contribute an input of at least 11.7 per cent from the minimum 35 per cent content required under the Legislation and Proclamation for duty free treatment in the U.S.

Both manufacturers could also resort to another scenario with each contributing 20 per cent of the total cost of production, excluding profits.

According to officials, the QIZ status allows investors to import the remaining 65 per cent input from anywhere in the world.

According to local businessmen, the QIZ has not succeeded in generating much interest from many Jordanian industrialists who remain opposed to the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Bilateral trade levels between Jordan and Israel did not exceed \$35 million

in 1997.

To ease foreign investors' fears of Jordanian bureaucracy and red tape procedures, the IPC is about to finalise a road map study that will review administrative procedures governing investments in the tourism and manufacturing sectors, said Ms. Badran.

"We will document all information relating to the procedures that each investor has to go through before setting up a business in Jordan," then we will see how we can reduce these procedures as much as possible," she added.

The Stanford Research Institute (SRI) has rated Jordan's investment climate as one of the most advanced in the region.

Non-Jordanian investors can have full equity ownership in all sectors, except in construction, mining and commercial services sector. In these areas, foreign ownership may not exceed 50 per cent.

But according to John Mathieson, SRI Director of Economic Practice, government bureaucracy and red tape procedures have been cited by many investors as obstacles hindering the smooth establishment and operation of a business in Jordan.

Mr. Mathieson was speaking at a seminar held last month by the IPC and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assess Jordan's commercial policy.

In her address to the seminar, Ms. Badran said the IPC in collaboration with the World Bank, have concluded the formulation of a National Investment Promotion Strategy featuring professional services rendered to investors through its one-stop-service programme.

## Syria puts into circulation new 1,000 pound note

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria's central bank has started putting into circulation the country's new 1,000 pound notes, worth about \$19 at the free-market rate, the official daily Al Baath reported Tuesday.

The newspaper said that new 200 pound notes are also to be put into circulation during the coming months.

Both new bills are to go into circulation progressively, in quantities replacing equal sums of smaller notes, so that "there will be no impact on the buying power of the Syrian pound," the paper said.

The face of the new green-coloured 1,000 pound note bears a portrait of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. It also bears a replica of Arab money put into circulation in the year 77 of the Muslim lunar calendar.

The reverse side of the 1,000 pound note bears symbols of "economic progress," the paper said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) If you focus on what's right now, you could line up a fabulous opportunity. The only problem is that you're more interested in gossiping with your friends. Well, see if you can do anything in the gossip that will help you extend your work.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Be careful, because April Fool's Day joke will be on you. Don't get into a risky investment, but do watch for a chance to make more money in. The opportunities will appear, but some will only be there for an instant. Pay attention.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Are you thinking about moving? You couldn't find a day with a high energy level. You'll do the job of three or four people, and if you can get three or four people to help you, the whole procedure will be even more fun.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) Somebody's pushing you to do something and you don't know how. The good news is that you can learn, and if you do, it will lead to future success. So stop arguing and start studying. This will turn out to be more fun than you thought it would be.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You have strength, power, enthusiasm and a quick wit. Money could be coming in, too. If you don't have a partner, think about enrolling somebody in your project. You're going to be very good at explaining what you want, so the rest ought to be easy.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You're right in the middle of all the confusion today. You can't find anything to stay the same for more than about 30 seconds. It's important for you to take time this morning to assess the situation and decide on a plan of action.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Today it might be almost impossible for you to sit still. You want to wander off to distant places. If you can't go in person, at least you can make a few phone calls. You might even be able to set up something for this weekend.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) There are lots of changes going on. It looks like they're going to affect your money, your love life and your friends. That ought to be enough to pique your interest. If you're confused, an analytical friend can help you make order out of chaos.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You're dynamic, good looking and lucky. A situation that seems to be beyond your control is propelling you to success. You're being urged to manifest your natural talents in a way that will serve others. Go ahead and take the leap.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Just when you think something's done, you'll notice the address is wrong, or something else is left out. Just look at today as a learning experience. It could actually turn out to be rather funny.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Love's in your heart, and money's burning a hole in your pocket. This could be a dangerous combination. If you wait until tomorrow evening to go shopping, it might not be quite a romantic, but you'd probably save quite a bit of cash.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) There are changes going on and many of them affect you. You may even be experiencing a shift in how you see yourself. This will all turn out for the best, although that might seem difficult to believe for the moment.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

## Computer show exhibits new services to the Kingdom

By Ahmed Naser  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ultra-fast

bandwidth, video transmission through the Web and an Internet skills training centre were presented

by Internet service providers (ISPs) at the American Computer Show, opened by HRH

Prince Abdullah yesterday. Global One, which recently upgraded its Internet connection to 1.5 MB per second — three times the previous speed —

introduced Zak-Net, a service that enables rapid download speeds via satellite, by giving an actual-time (streaming) video demo of Web-based CNN broadcasts.

"The service is targeted toward corporate users and heavy Internet surfers," said Imad Ayoub, Global's general manager. Initial costs for the set-up of the service, which requires a satellite dish, include JD250 for equipment and a monthly subscription of JD36 for 180 MB of traffic.

However, the service does not allow upload to the Internet, as the Jordan Telecommunications Company has a monopoly on international circuits until Dec. 31, 2002.

Mr. Ayoub said Global sold its first 30 Zak-Net subscriptions three weeks ago. Jordan's leading ISP, which has around 5,000 subscribers, has been testing this service since last September.

National Equipment and Technical Services (NETS) announced the launch of a "high-end hands on" Web proficiency training centre and advertising on its home page at [www.nets.com.jo](http://www.nets.com.jo).

Asked whether Jordan's largest Bulletin Board Service (BBS) planned to upgrade its connection, Marwan Juma, NETS' general manager, said "such a move was under way."

Moreover, NETS, which according to Mr. Juma has 1,600 Internet subscribers as part of its 3,500 BBS users, plans to increase the number of its available phone lines.

JoinNet, an ISP set to

join the market next month, is sponsoring a demo Internet cafe at Radisson SAS Ambassador Hall.

"We are here to introduce ourselves and show people what we have," said Tareq Abdul Latt, JoinNet's general manager.

FirstNet, the first to introduce local dial-ups in Irbid and Zarqa, is only offering promotional deals for fair visitors, said Ziad Masri, assistant marketing manager. Global and NETS are also offering promotional deals on the occasion of the computer show.

FirstNet, which started offering lease-lines in the governorates last month, has a total of around 500 subscribers, said Mr. Masri. Index, the Kingdom's fourth currently operating ISP, was absent from the expo.

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## THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 A Baldwin
- 2 Stable
- 3 youngster
- 4 Ball's partner
- 5 avas
- 6 Region
- 7 Neutral shade
- 8 Be too formally attired
- 9 Formed a row
- 10 Silver Medalist of US one-two finish
- 11 Chekhov or Brudner
- 12 Mr. Celsius
- 13 Gold-Medal
- 14 star
- 15 Cruces, NM
- 16 Beauty parlor
- 17 Heart artery
- 18 Sets sights
- 19 Stair element
- 20 Zadora and others
- 21 Made an effort
- 22 Author of "Dead Souls"
- 23 N.T. book
- 24 Double Gold-Medal skier
- 25 50m
- 26 Littlest lardie
- 27 Gold Medalist of US one-two finish
- 28 Monkey
- 29 Wyman movie
- 30 Very satisfactory
- 31 Got up
- 32 First name of SA
- 33 Unsteady
- 34 Knock lightly again
- 35 Opposing sides
- 36 Ham radio operator
- 37 Shrink time?

DOWN

- 1 Cooking smell
- 2 "Alice" star
- 3 Standing
- 4 Waitress on roller skates
- 5 Jung of psychology
- 6 Hunter
- 7 majesty

8 Tediuous

9 Undertaking

10 Centennial

11 Olympics city

12 Water fall?

13 Sister

14 Last letter, in London

15 Patron saint of Paris

16 Existed

17 Unsteady

18 Knock lightly again

19 Secret store

20 Vehicle

21 True up

22 "Buddies"

23 White Sea bay

24 Machine-shop

25 Buenos

26 Knowing smile

27 Arabic or Hebrew

28 King of France

29 Impairments

30 and Clark

31 Scandinavian country, abbr.

32 Leopold's cohort

33 Maintains one's subscription

34 Laudor

35 Overcast and blue, e.g.

36 Clicking sounds

37 Aussie rockers

38 cohort

39 dot

40 Two of a kind

41 Used chair

42 Valuable ven

43 Searf of feathers

## Peanuts

ALL RIGHT I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU HOW IMPORTANT THIS GAME IS TODAY

REMIND ME ANYWAY..

THIS GAME TODAY IS VERY IMPORTANT!

THANKS FOR REMINDING ME!

## Andy Capp

THANKS FOR THE CHIT, ANDY, AND RESTORING MY FAITH IN HUMANITY

NOT AT ALL, VICTOR, ANY TIME

HE'D JUST NOTICED THE FIRST SCRATCH ON HIS NEW CAR, PET

OH DEAR

## Mutt'n'Jeff

FLAT BROKE MAN! HERE COMES JEFF! I WISH I COULD BORROW THE BUCKS OFF HIM!

I'M SO DEPRESSED! I'M SAD, MUTT!

GO ON, MUTT! DON'T DO ANYTHING DREAMER! TAKE THAT FIVE BUCKS TO TIDE YOU OVER! TELL YOU GET A JOB!

GET A JOB? THAT'S THE THING I NEED TO DO!

CAN YOU BEAT THAT? ALWAYS PRETENDING!

BUT WHY DOES HE ALWAYS PRETEND WITH MY DOUGH? HEY, MUTT!

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"When I was little, I had an imaginary friend. I saw him again the other day and he tried to sell me insurance."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WILEH

FARCT

PHILSO

HIRDBY

Answer: WILEH, FARCT, PHILSO, HIRDBY

Yesterday's Jumbles: NOOSE FETID BOTHER OXYGEN  
Answer: Lunch on the run can turn out to be this — A NOT-SO HOT DOG

## REUTERS

## The Business

## Major Currencies & Cross

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	1.8495	2.977	0.693
DE Mark	0.5407	1	0.322
GB Sterling	1.6742	3.1901	1
FR Franc	6.5593	121.27	2.281
JP Yen	2.0075	138.75	2.447
CA Dollar	0.7057	1.2966	0.448
IT Lira	0.0005	1.3742	0.377
SE Guildr	0.4797	88.88	1.294
RU Franc	0.1515	2.2984	0.396

## Midsize

Currency	USD	JPY	SAR
US Dollar	0.7090	3.7500	1.2900
Indian Dinar	1.4104	0.2657	0.1851
Israeli Riyal	0.2657	0.1851	0.1851
Yemeni Rial	2.55	1.8306	0.8400
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1947	0.2300
UAE Dirham	3.2705	2.3189	12.3640
Saudi Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0275
Yemeni Rial	0.65	0.4642	2.4400
Syrian Lira	0.2941	0.2085	1.1230

## Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Crude	13.92	14.41
Heating	15.89	16.27
Gas	13.92	14.41
Coal	11.89	13.15
Oil	154.00	160.00

## Metal Prices

Gold	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	301.5	302
Silver (oz)	6.36	6.39
Platinum (oz)	447.5	429.5
10g (Months)	1407	1450
20g (Months)	1770	1772
30g (Months)	1103	1102
40g (Months)	570	571
50g (Months)	5560	5565

## Main Equit

Index	Value
DOW JONES	8274
S&P 500	1134
FT-SE 100	2832
NIKKEI 225	10427
CAC 40	3075
DAX	1142

## JORDAN

## DA

## STUDY

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## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

## Murad blasts civil and military consumer corporations for harming private sector activity

AMMAN — A French delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris concluded a week-long visit to Jordan on Tuesday by clinching a minimum of JD700,000 worth of potential business deals.

The reason behind the visit was to develop business relations between French and Jordanian companies, said Mohammad Benhima, head of the delegation.

During their stay in Jordan, the delegation met with members of the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

Four sectors were represented in the delegation. Those producing luxury goods, as well as the industrial, cosmetics, and electronic sectors.

Mr. Murad concluded by emphasizing that recession was still prevailing and that the anticipated shopping activity for 'Eid Al Adha' has not materialised (Al Dussour).

## French delegation clinches JD0.7m of business deals before leaving Jordan

By Hind-Lara Mango

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A French delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris concluded a week-long visit to Jordan on Tuesday by clinching a minimum of JD700,000 worth of potential business deals.

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## Unions demand proposed law on private funds be withdrawn

By Tareq Ayyoub

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of professional and trade unions Tuesday reiterated their rejection to a government draft law to "control" the saving and pension funds and demanded a withdrawal of the proposed law.

There is a prescribed government policy to confiscate our savings and put them under their surveillance," said Husni Abu Ghaidah, president of the powerful Jordan Engineers Association (JEA).

There is a consensus among the concerned parties to reject the draft law," Mr. Abu Ghaidah told a gathering of more than 40 participants attending a seminar held at the Professional Unions Compound to discuss the proposed government law.

Last month, the government announced a draft law to regulate the private sector's saving and pension funds which are estimated at more than JD250 million and cover more than 150,000 members.

The proposed law, which drew an uproar from 80 savings and pension funds, stipulates several restraints over these funds and imposes income tax over these

funds, which are now

exempted from any tax.

Many saving funds have opted for liquidation and for distributing the savings among their members.

The Arab Bank, the Kingdom's largest financial institution, has already dissolved its saving fund which amounted to JD30 million, most of which were invested in shares at the Amman Financial Market (AFM).

Mr. Abu Ghaidah said the JEA would face financial and political difficulties if it decides to liquidate its pension fund which amounts to more than JD70 million and covers more than 40,000 members.

He added that several thousands of the members living in the Palestinian self-rule areas are still considered members in the JEA despite the 1988 disengagement of the West Bank from Jordan.

Mr. Abu Ghaidah denied that the professional unions were incurring losses from investments they made from their saving and pension funds.

"We support the regulation of these funds. But it should not be by the government. The control should be from specialised persons from within the profession-

al unions," he stressed.

Deputy president of the Bar Association, Samir Khirfan, charged that the proposed law was formulated upon instructions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which supervises the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme.

Mr. Khirfan said the draft law was contradictory to the individuals' freedoms "that consider these funds as personal savings that should not be confiscated."

"No party whatsoever has the right to put its grip on these funds or confiscate them... This draft law has created tension and fears among more than 150,000 members of these funds," Mr. Khirfan added.

Deputy chairman of the saving fund of the Jordan Electricity Company, Mohammad Al Sayid, described the proposed law as a "weapon of mass destruction which will eliminate what ever (money) remained in the hands of the working class, which represents 20 per cent of the population."

"How can the bloated government control or regulate funds when it has failed to secure any success for public sector firms," Mr. Sayid said.

## Oil prices drop

LONDON (AFP) — An accord by the OPEC oil group to cut production by 1.245 million barrels a day in a bid to push up prices from a nine-year low failed to light up the crude market in London Tuesday.

"The market speaks with one voice and it's the voice of disappointment," said Peter Dixon, Salomon Smith Barney petroleum desk manager. "I am really surprised. The cuts are not enough and down we are again."

On the market, Brent North Sea oil for delivery in May fell to \$14.40, up slightly from a low of \$14.20 earlier in the day, but still well down from Monday's close of \$14.79.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) deal, struck early in the morning in Vienna, took effect Tuesday and is effective until the end of the year.

OPEC is hoping to reverse the oversupply that has flooded the market and sent prices tumbling, posing a serious threat to some of the group's poorer members' economies.

The deal ratifies pledges made by OPEC countries, who along with several major non-OPEC producers agreed last week to cut just over 1.5 million barrels a day from production.

But the measures is temporary and does not change countries' underlying production quotas.

Tony Machacek, analyst at Credit Lyonnais Rouse brokerage firm, said that despite the marathon session in Vienna, there was "nothing more coming out. It is really disappointing."

"They basically ratified what was announced last week and that's obviously not enough," he said. "What was decided in Vienna was definitely not enough to generate a (price) rise."

## REUTERS REUTERS

## The Business of Information

## Major Currencies &amp; Cross Rates

Prices as at 31/03/98 20:07

	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	0.8973	0.7700	1.0000	1.4170	1622.00	2.0848	6.1929
DE Mark	0.8973	1.0000	0.8580	1.1146	1.2723	13.6363	1.9364	6.5596
GB Sterling	0.7700	0.8580	1.0000	1.2866	1.4170	16.2200	2.0848	6.1929
JP Yen	0.0091	0.0089	0.0077	1.0000	0.7723	8.9333	0.1936	0.6559
CA Dollar	0.7077	0.7927	0.6880	0.7723	1.0000	11.9459	1.3673	4.0616
IT Lira	0.0020	0.0019	0.0017	0.0111	0.0077	1.0000	0.0208	0.0619
NL Guilder	0.0036	0.0035	0.0030	0.0333	0.0208	0.0100	1.0000	3.3333
FR Franc	0.1667	0.1667	0.1450	1.6667	0.1667	0.1667	0.1667	1.0000

## Middle Eastern Currencies

	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	KWD	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.8973	0.7700	1.0000	3.6729	1527.50	3.4000	4.7855
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.2801	1.1000	1.4104	5.1304	2154.44	4.7855	6.5596
Saudi Riyal	0.2667	0.2400	0.2083	0.2667	0.9167	3750.00	4.7855	6.5596
Bahrain Dinar	2.4667	2.2222	1.9231	2.4667	8.6667	3500.00	4.7855	6.5596
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.2493	0.2150	0.2747	0.9840	4.01	4.7855	6.5596
Kuwait Dinar	3.2706	2.9633	2.5667	3.2706	11.91	4855.31	4.7855	6.5596
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.2469	0.2143	0.2723	0.9832	4.01	4.7855	6.5596
Libanes/L1000	0.65	0.5909	0.5111	0.65	2.4045	97.33	4.7855	6.5596
Egyptian	0.2461	0.2222	0.1923	0.2461	0.9832	4.01	4.7855	6.5596

## Energy

	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
Brent	13.82	12.41	10.67	135.67
W. Texas	13.82	12.41	10.67	135.67
Bonny	13.82	12.41	10.67	135.67
Dubai	13.82	12.41	10.67	135.67
UL Gas	154.00	138.00	119.00	1540.00

## Metal Prices

	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
Gold (oz's)	301.5	272.0	234.0	2915.0
Silver (oz's)	6.38	5.78	4.95	60.50
Platinum (oz's)	407.5	368.0	314.0	3915.0
Al (3 Months)	1447	1300	1120	14000
CU (3 Months)	1770	1590	1370	17500
Zinc (3 Months)	1100	990	850	10800
Lead (3 Months)	670	600	510	6500
Ni (3 Months)	5580	5000	4300	54500

## Main Equity Indices

	Index	Change	High	Low	Pr Ch
New York	DOW JONES	874.85	91.93	1.08	8782.28
New York	S&P 500	1106.98	13.43	1.23	1107.19
London	FTSE 100	5932.2	20.3	0.34	5932.2
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16827.7	264.13	1.62	16827.7
Paris	CAC 40	3875.81	75.88	1.99	3886.06
Frankfurt	DAX	6182.35	92.59	1.85	6184.55

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKHAN										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 31/03/1998										
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
346.000	250.000	ARAB BANK	13.6	1.20	7	240	80090	334.75	333.50	-.75
S 2.340	1.650	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	4.3	0.00	11	8400	10624	1.67	1.66	-.01
S 3.540	1.250	BANK OF JORDAN	4.3	0.00	3	250	336	1.30	1.37	+.07
1.300	.890	MTD. EAST. INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	1	200	184	.92	.92	0.00
2.680	1.650	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.4	6.03	6	2750	4758	1.73	1.73	0.00
S 4.650	4.650	THE HOUSING BK.	30.8	1.88	5	500	2570	5.10	5.15	+.05
.920	.590	JOR. GULF BANK	3.6	0.00	1	5000	3050	.62	.62	0.00
S 4.190	2.800	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	20.2	0.00	1	10000	28000	2.80	2.80	0.00
S 4.020	1.950	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	9.9	4.92	7	1800	3510	1.96	1.95	-.01
1.450	1.020	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	1	100	721	1.02	1.03	+.01
1.400	.800	BEIT AL-MAL (BEITNA)	.5	18.07	1	250	208	.84	.83	-.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 232.90 %CHG: -0.01 44 28090 134050										
2.400	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.6	12.38	13	87535	176821	2.02	2.02	0.00
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.98 %CHG: 0.00 13 87535 176821										
2.230	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.0	4.81	20	18100	31280	2.06	2.08	+.02
4.030	1.320	JBID ELECTRICITY	12.5	5.48	4	2000	4208	2.06	2.10	+.04
S 5.500	2.450	RTNHS MINERALS	49.5	0.00	1	100	452	4.75	4.52	-.23
1.550	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	40.7	0.00	21	12100	12346	1.02	1.02	0.00
.590	.590	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	9	0.00	1	250	95	.38	.38	0.00
+ 1.480	1.370	MTD. EAST. HOTELS	17.1	0.00	2	300	339	1.14	1.12	-.02
1.090	.900	ZAKRA EDUCATION	16.9	0.00	9	8080	7688	.95	.96	+.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 118.14 %CHG: +0.13 59 37911 56506										
4.480	2.490	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.2	4.06	15	18861	90315	2.71	2.71	0.00
7.050	5.620	ARAB POTASH CO.	13.9	3.16	3	350	1995	5.75	5.70	-.05
11.160	9.200	JOR. PETROL. REFINARY	8.9	8.31	12	4100	44261	10.65	10.70	+.05
6.700	4.500	JORDAN TANNING	8.9	7.23	1	100	555	5.80	5.55	-.05
1.350	1.040	MOULDER INDUSTRIES	10.4	6.33	3	450	539	1.17	1.20	+.03
2.260	1.100	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	9	0.00	7	2950	3801	1.33	1.26	-.07
S 5.700	3.440	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	14.1	0.31	14	9325	47569	5.10	5.12	+.02
1.530	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	15.2	6.50	1	250	308	1.23	1.23	0.00
2.330	1.700	GENERAL MINTING	9	0.00	1	100	175	1.70	1.75	+.05
3.440	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.5	2.03	1	100	277	2.79	2.77	-.02
.570	.400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16.2	0.00	14	15700	7536	.47	.48	+.01
1.110	.680	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	21.4	0.00	1	250	175	.70	.70	0.00
1.620	.510	NATIONAL INDOS.	9	0.00	5	4730	2638	.55	.56	+.01
.810	.370	JOR. INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	5	2550	1020	.40	.40	0.00
S 3.000	.920	NATL. CABLE WIRE. NFAC	27.2	0.00	3	850	957	1.12	1.13	+.01
.790	.510	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	19	11275	6481	.57	.57	0.00
1.560	.810	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.5	5.43	12	11618	15059	1.30	1.29	-.01
1.060	.470	KAWTHAR INVEST.	50.3	0.00	5	11700	6077	.81	.81	0.00
1.560	.810	UNIV. MOON. INDOS.	15.6	0.12	33	15761	16604	.99	.98	-.01
1.320	.690	JOR. INDOS. RESOURCES	10.1	13.23	2	800	600	.79	.75	-.04
1.080	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	18.7	0.00	7	4750	4825	1.04	1.02	-.02
1.880	1.290	EL-SAY READY WEAR	46.8	0.00	3	6000	7970	1.32	1.33	+.01
1.250	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	5	750	885	1.18	1.18	0.00
1.220	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	46.4	0.00	9	11250	11378	1.01	1.02	+.01
.660	.860	JORDAN STEEL	9.3	8.43	18	18788	15593	.84	.83	-.01
.810	.570	MTD. EAST. COMPLEX	7.6	16.13	4	2000	1239	.62	.62	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 108.31 %CHG: -0.41 203 155158 247829										
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 165.77 %CHG: -0.13 319 308694 615206										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 31/03/1998										
N 1.050	.910	EXPORT & FIN. BKS. 75Z	17.2	0.00	3	12650	8854	.93	.93	0.00
N 1.050	1.050	ISLAMIC INSURANCE CO	P	0.00	2	1450	1595	1.05	1.10	+.05
N 1.330	.840	JOR. TRADE PAC.	9	0.00	15	33500	35013	.39	.39	0.00
N 1.800	.660	UNION INV. 50Z	P	0.00	25	141125	13870	.74	.74	0.00
N 1.000	.720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	P	0.00	3	5534	5532	1.00	1.00	0.00
N 1.250	1.050	CENTURY INV. GROUP	E	0.00	1	50000	45500	1.22	1.16	-.06
N 2.220	1.050	CENTURY INV. GROUP	E	0.00	1	50000	100000	2.00	2.00	0.00
N 2.900	.320	JOR. INDOS. MATCH-JEMCO	9	0.00	6	8000	1070	.14	.14	0.00
N 1.500	.370	ARAB FOOD & HSD.	9	0.00	1	1500	690	.47	.46	-.01
N 4.470	.240	JOR. INTL. INV. TRD.	41.8	0.00	2	11000	4090	.38	.38	0.00
N 7.500	.360	NATL. MULT. ENG. NAMICO	9	0.00	12	54500	20710	.38	.38	0.00
N 8.950	.820	READY MIX CONCRETE	10.9	0.00	1	200	113	1.10	1.13	+.03
N 5.620	.400	ARAB ELECT.	9	0.00	2000	2000	2000	.40	.42	+.02
N 6.690	.580	MIDWEST PHARM. 90X	E	0.00	6	1650	872	.83	.83	0.00
N 1.800	.860	UNION TOBACCO 75Z	E	0.00	9	5786	7123	1.47	1.50	+.03
N 7.730	.550	RAIL PHARM.	E	0.00	5	1500	3105	.60	.63	+.03
N 4.450	.240	INDOS. ENG.	E	0.00	9	17100	4788	.78	.69	-.09
N 4.800	.490	INDOS. CERAMIC	12.1	0.00	3	1100	540	.50	.50	0.00
N 9.950	.550	ADVANCED PHARM. TRD.	E	0.00	7	4000	238	.64	.64	0.00
N 7.400	.440	NATL. POULTRY	E	0.00	13	13800	6022	.75	.60	-.15
N 7.950	.470	OPTICALS & LENSING 75Z	E	0.00	2	2100	715	.60	.60	0.00
N 1.000	.660	NATL. ALUMINIUM 75Z	96.0	0.00	3	9000	3810	.68	.68	0.00
N 1.000	.750	KEBAL PRINT CO. 75Z	13.4	8.61	5	12500	8283	.68	.68	0.00
GRAND TOTAL 135 546410 713677										



## Maradona goal voted best ever

LONDON (AFP) — Diego Maradona's second goal against England in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final — following his infamous 'Hand of God' opener — has been voted the greatest goal of all time.

Footballers past and present selected their three favourite goals and the Argentinian's effort was the runaway winner — polling twice as many votes as runner-up, Marco Van Basten.

His strike, for Holland against USSR in the 1988 European Championships, was voted just ahead of David Beckham's halfway line lob against Wimbledon in the 1996/7 English season opener.

A few celebrities disagreed with the selection in the poll run by FourFourTwo magazine.

German World Cup legend Franz Beckenbauer agreed that Maradona's goal was the greatest, although he voted for Pele's World Cup final goal against Italy in 1970 as the second.

Former England striker Gary Lineker again selected Maradona's as the best, but he felt Paul Gascoigne's strike

for Spurs in the 1991 FA Cup final was the runner-up.

**The top ten greatest goals of all time:**  
 1 Diego Maradona, Argentina v England (World Cup quarter-final 1986);  
 2 Marco Van Basten, Holland v USSR (European Championship Final 1988);  
 3 David Beckham, Wimbledon v Manchester United (Premiership 1996/7);  
 4 Carlos Alberto, Brazil v Italy (World Cup final 1970);  
 5 Trevor Sinclair, QPR v Barnsley (FA Cup 4th round 1996/7);  
 6 Roberto Carlos, Brazil v France (Le Tournoi 1997);  
 7 Geoff Hurst, England v West Germany (World Cup final 1966);  
 8 Pele, Brazil v Italy (World Cup final 1970);  
 9 Ronnie Radford, Hereford v Newcastle (FA Cup 3rd round 1971/2);  
 10 John Barnes, Brazil v England (friendly 1984)

## FIFA appeals to ticketless English fans to stay at home

ZURICH (AFP) — FIFA, international football's governing body, has appealed to the England Football Association to try to stop ticketless fans travelling to France for the World Cup finals.

"If you don't have a ticket, don't go," FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said the day after a man was charged with murdering a Fulham fan at an English league match.

He denied reports FIFA was preparing a ban on all ticketless fans trying to get to France 98.

"It's my personal opinion that the concept of stopping fans travelling in the first place has not really been given serious consideration but FIFA is not threatening a World Cup ban," he said.

England have been allocated only 3,000 tickets a match for their three first-round games and there are fears at least 10 times that number might go to France to try to buy tickets on the black market.

Cooper agreed that England had not beaten the hooligan problem.

"I think it's generally acknowledged that the problem has been very effectively contained but not solved," he said.

"Everybody must remain on their guard."

And there is no doubt last weekend's violence, in which a man was killed and fans at the English Premiership match between Barnsley and Liverpool repeatedly invaded the pitch to try to attack the referee, will have harmed England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

## NBA fines Barkley \$10,000 for criticising official

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Barkley, the outspoken Houston Rockets forward, was fined \$10,000 by the National Basketball Association on Monday for calling referee Jack Nies "gutless."

Barkley's stinging comment came after he was ejected from Friday night's 100-75 loss to the Orlando Magic.

Barkley was thrown out for his second technical foul with 9:02 remaining and the Rockets trailing by 18 points. He received his first technical for protesting the lack of a call during the second quarter. He drew his second technical after complaining that he was held while going for a pass that turned into one of Houston's 24 turnovers.

"I'd like to say one thing about Jack Nies," said Barkley, who was fined and suspended for an altercation with the official last season. "I think he is a gutless official who holds grudges."

## Smits ponders role as NBA playoffs near

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NBA season is winding down, and Rik Smits' huge feet are hurting again.

Smits, who has battled foot problems since his college days, missed his first game of the season because of foot pain Sunday and isn't certain if he'll be able to play Tuesday night with the Indiana Pacers against the Los Angeles Clippers.

"It's a lot of different pain. I felt (Sunday) like there was a needle stuck in my foot, a real sharp pain," Smits said Monday, adding that sometimes the pain is so bad that he can't even sleep with a sheet over the feet.

"I have to lie on my side and not have anything over me. Not a blanket ... not even a sheet," he said.

It was only the second game the 2.23-metre center has missed all season. The previous game was due to back spasms, although he's skipped several practices because of foot pain.

Rest is the best cure for the pain, but with Indiana battling for playoff position, this is not the time Smits would like to be out.

Smits had more than foot pain to contend with Sunday. He had to watch as his team set a league record for fouls, losing 74-55 to San Antonio. Since the NBA began using the shot clock in 1954, no team has scored fewer points in a game.

"It was real tough," Smits

said. "I was in pain behind the bench, not only in my feet. It's tough to see your team struggling like that."

Smits was feeling a little better Monday, but was uncertain if he'd be able to play tonight.

The pain "would be multiplied even if I put extra pressure on it, if I stepped on it, or landed on it or pivoted," he said. "Now it's a little more of a constant ache, not as sharp as it was."

Smits shot by himself Monday, but did not practice.

"Overuse, aggravation," he said when asked what caused the pain. "Sometimes they can get aggravated and it takes a while to settle down. The nerve gets flared up. ... I'm concerned."

Coach Larry Bird, no stranger to pain from his 13 years with the Boston Celtics, leaves it up to Smits to decide if he can practice or play.

"It is completely up to him," Bird said. "Hopefully, he can rest and get back soon. We'll just have to go without him, and have the other guys step up."

The absence of Smits, the team's second-leading scorer (17.1) and rebounder (7.1) was compounded Sunday by leading scorer Reggie Miller's one-game suspension for a flagrant elbowing foul.

Miller will be back Tuesday night, and a decision on Smits may not come

until just before the opening tip. That's when Smits made his decision on Sunday.

"If he can't practice, then I understand that," Bird said.

"The decision is up to him. When he says he can practice or play, we'll use him."

"A lot of times I could still be able to play," said Smits, who frequently complained of foot pain last season when he missed the season's first 30 games while recovering from surgery on both feet.

Smits and Miller have accounted for about 37 per cent of Indiana's points this season.

The record-setting loss to the Spurs came two days after

Indiana scored a season-high 133 points against Charlotte in which Miller and Smits scored 24 points each. Against San Antonio, Indiana shot 27 percent and had nine points in the fourth quarter.

"With Reggie being out, it was bad timing on my part," Smits said.

The Pacers hope to regroup Tuesday night as they start a stretch that has them playing four games in six days, including a trip to Charlotte. They'll seek to avoid losing two straight for the first time since falling at Utah and Portland on Dec. 8-10.

## Real to attack, Dortmund aim to defend in UEFA Cup

MADRID (AFP) — Real Madrid will go into Wednesday's European Cup semi-final, first leg match against defending champions Borussia Dortmund aiming to attack at every opportunity.

Borussia's plan is the exact opposite: to hold firm at the back so that the scores remain at least even when they get to play at home two weeks later.

Real will be without suspended veteran defender Fernando Hierro but will field a three-pronged attack of Predrag Mijatovic, Fernando Morientes and Raul — backed up by Davor Suker off the bench.

The man charged with stopping the expected Real assaults is goalkeeper Stefan Klos, who is taking legal action he hopes will free him to join Glasgow Rangers.

In Dortmund's last nine Champions' League games away from home, Klos has conceded only three goals.

Manfred Binz has not proven the most confident of liberators since moving to Dortmund during the season, but coach Nevio Scala has little choice on Wednesday.

His preferred sweeper, the Austrian Wolfgang Feiersinger, will be absent through suspension.

Dortmund also have eight other players carrying a yellow card into the

match: Stephane Chapuisat, Heiko Herrlich, Julio Cesar, Jurgen Kohler, Andy Moller, Steffen Freund, Martin Kree and Ibrahim Tanko.

Mathias Sammer remains absent as he continues a long and difficult convalescence from a debilitating knee injury but Dortmund are almost at full strength.

They pulled off a 3-0 victory over MSV Duisburg on Saturday but, like so often this season, they lacked sparkle and killer instinct a top side ought to have.

Chapuisat played a role in all three goals, however, and it is him the German side will be looking to on the break.

Real, meanwhile, hope to have defender Manuel Sanchis back from injury to play at the back alongside Fernando Sanz and Brazilian ace Roberto Carlos.

## Innovation Kvaerner leads in Whitbred

FORT LAUDERDALE (AFP) — With EF Language firmly in control of the overall lead, Innovation Kvaerner in fourth place led a second wave of finishers across the line in the sixth-stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race on Monday.

British entry Silk Cut, skippered by Lawrie Smith, won the 4,750 nautical mile stage from Sao Sebastiao, Brazil, on Sunday.

Swedish yacht EF Language, skippered by Paul Cayard, took second place to increase its overall lead. Swedish Match, skippered by Gunnar Krantz, finished two-and-a-half hours behind EF Language.

Innovation Kvaerner finished fourth, crossing the line in the midst of a squall.

It was an appropriate finish as skipper Knut Frostad's boat had battled bad weather for much of the leg. Frostad, who earned 77 points for a total of 449, sailed in third place until day 13 of the stage.

Swedish Match slipped ahead, and Innovation Kvaerner was becalmed, losing a massive 35 nautical miles to Swedish Match. Then Frostad was trapped in a squall system before the Bahamas that the front three boats largely escaped.

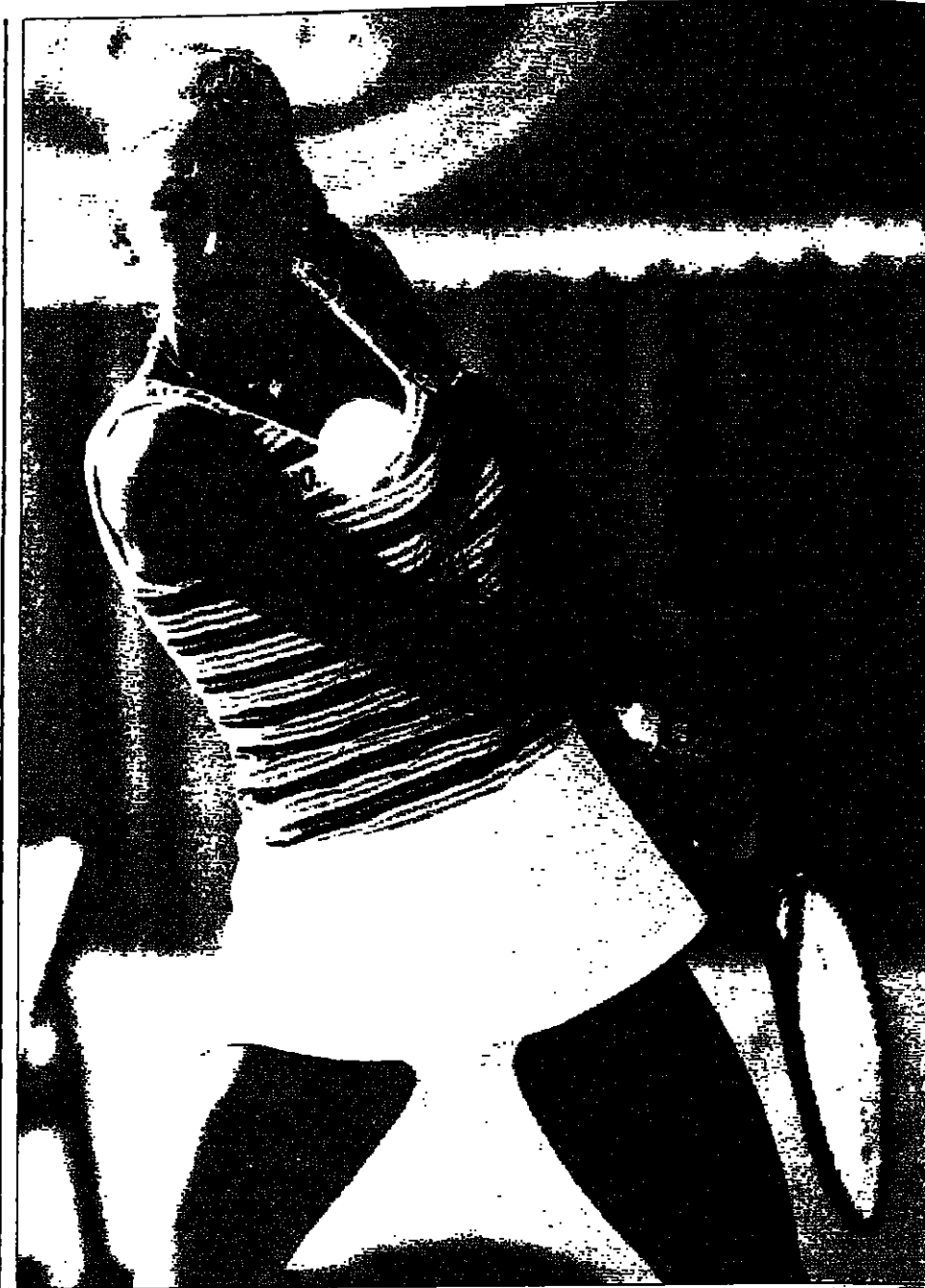
Merit Cup, skippered by Grant Dalton, finished fifth, three and a half hours behind Innovation Kvaerner.

The disappointing finish, worth 66 points, dropped Merit Cup from second to third overall with 477 points.

"We probably needed to win this leg," Dalton admitted. "However, we're philosophical about it. I guess EF Language has the whole thing in the bag now, barring accidents. We are now chasing for second and third position overall."

U.S. entries Chessie Racing and Toshiba duelled to the finish line. Chessie Racing claiming sixth place for the stage just minutes in front of Toshiba.

The two remaining yachts in the fleet, Brunel Sunergy and EF Education, were expected to arrive on Tuesday.



Anna Kournikova

## Hingis extends lead after Evert Cup title

MIAMI (AFP) — Martina Hingis remained secure in the World No. 1 spot despite a final exit at the Lipton Championships, while Lipton champion Venus Williams broke into the top 10 in the WTA rankings released Monday.

Anna Kournikova, who lost to Williams in the final at Key Biscayne, Florida, jumped from 25th in the world to 16th after reaching her first WTA Tour final.

1. Martina Hingis (Svi)	5875 pts
2. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	4148
3. Jana Novotna (Cze)	3810
4. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa)	2862
5. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa)	2731
6. Monica Seles (USA)	2718
7. Mary Pierce (Fra)	2690
8. Iva Majoli (Cro)	2563
9. Conchita Martinez (Spa)	2514
10. Venus Williams (USA)	2360
11. Nathalie Tauziat (Fra)	1971
12. Irina Spirlea (Rom)	1929
13. Anke Huber (Ger)	1878
14. Sandrine Testud (Fra)	1767
15. Dominique Van Roost (Bel)	1766
16. Anna Kournikova (Rus)	1544
17. Ai Sugiyama (Jpn)	1504
18. Patty Schnyder (Svi)	1492
19. Lisa Raymond (USA)	1369
20. Sabine Appelmans (Bel)	1360



World No. 1 Martina Hingis poses for photographers with a bottle of Clairol Daily Defense shampoo in New York. Hingis signed a deal with Clairol to act as a spokesperson for the product line (Reuters photo)

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 2	GALLERIA 1	Hisham Yanes Theatre
	Leonardo Di Caprio ... in			Kim Basinger... in	ABDOUN	ABDOUN	STARTING APRIL 6TH
	ROME0 & JULIET	SALT ON OUR SKIN	TITANIC	L.A. CONFIDENTIAL	GRAND OPENING TITANIC	GRAND OPENING TITANIC	Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45	Shows: 5:15, 8:30 The film is also on at 2:00 p.m. & 12:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	Shows: 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 The film is also on at 12:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	Starring Hisham Yanes, Dabbas, Rania Kurdi and the at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call: 4640155, 462155



## Hammers down Leeds 3-0

LONDON (AFP) — Welsh international John Hartson and his French strike partner Samassi Abou capitalised on two early defensive mix-ups to help West Ham to a 3-0 English Premiership win over Leeds at Upton Park on Monday night.

Ian Pearce scored the third goal midway through the second half of a one-sided contest. The victory gave the Hammers three crucial points in their battle for a UEFA Cup spot and came as a blow to Leeds' similar ambitions. Hartson struck West Ham's opener as early as the eighth minute when the Leeds defence uncharacteristically failed to cope with an inswinging corner by Eyal Berkovic.

The corner was headed on at the near post by Martin Hiden and goalkeeper Nigel Martyn was completely wrong-footed as the ball fell to the incoming Hartson to score from short-range. West Ham's second

goal was almost comical. Defender David Unsworth played a long ball out of defence which Hartson headed on — but it still looked easy for Leeds to clear.

But Austrian international Hiden, a recent signing from Rapid Vienna, collided with 'keeper Martyn on the edge of the penalty area and Abou, who had run forward more in hope than expectation, was as surprised as anyone to find the ball at his feet and he merely ran it into the net.

Leeds, who had won their last two games 4-0 against Blackburn and 5-0 against Derby, were without injured centre-back Lucas Radebe, while Harry Kewell was forced to sit the game out as he had reported unfit for international duty with Australia.

But that could not excuse their defensive frailties and only a goalline clearance from Ian Harte when Pearce looked odds-on to score

kept the margin down before halftime. Martyn also redeemed himself with a fine reaction save from Berkovic after he had initially only parried an Unsworth free-kick. West Ham started the second half where they had left off, with Abou going past two Leeds defenders before laying the ball off to Hartson, who fired a shot just over the bar.

The Hammers also had a penalty appeal for hand ball against Hiden turned down, but they were in danger of sitting back on their lead. Pearce, playing out of position at right wing back, put the game out of Leeds' reach on 67 minutes when he cut inside from a Berkovic through ball, and fired the ball confidently home after Harte failed to clear.

It could have been 4-0 but Hartson saw his shot bounce off a post in the final minute.

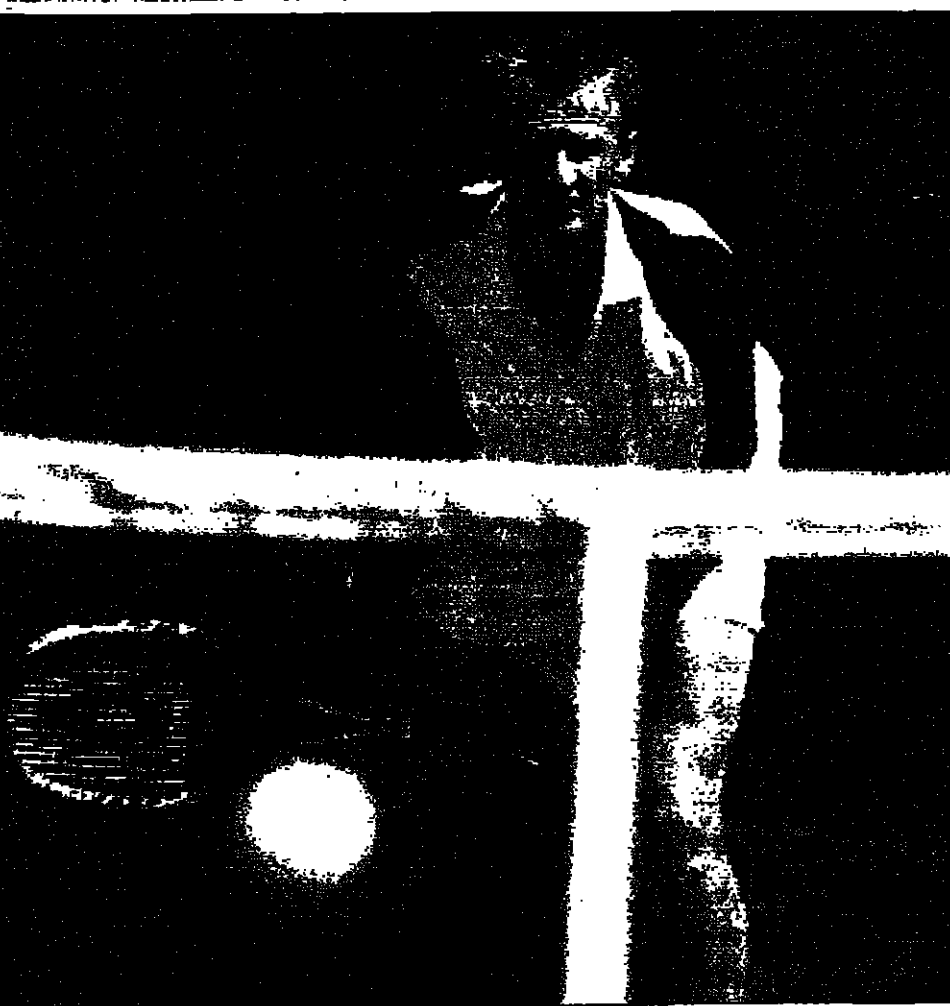


New World No. 1 Marcelo Rios

## ATP RANKINGS

PARIS (AFP) — Leading ATP men's tennis rankings issued Monday:

1. Marcelo Rios (Chi)	3645
2. Pete Sampras (USA)	3600
3. Petr Korda (Cze)	3443
4. Patrick Rafter (Aus)	3211
5. Greg Rusedski (Gbr)	3094
6. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus)	3027
7. Alex Corretja (Spa)	2703
8. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe)	2663
9. Richard Krajicek (Ned)	2308
10. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra)	2232
11. Michael Chang (USA)	2200
12. Karol Kucera (Svk)	2131
13. Andrei Panatta (Ita)	2108
14. Cedric Pioline (Fra)	1860
15. Tim Henman (Gbr)	1847
16. Mark Philippoussis (Aus)	1767
17. Carlos Moya (Spa)	1688
18. Alberto Berasategui (Spa)	1637
19. Sergi Bruguera (Spa)	1610
20. Thomas Enqvist (Swe)	1574
21. Albert Costa (Spa)	1570
22. Andre Agassi (USA)	1558
23. Magnus Norman (Swe)	1476
24. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro)	1473
25. Fabrice Santoro (Fra)	1466
26. Nicolas Pietrangeli (Ger)	1449
27. Andrei Medvedev (Rus)	1325
28. Marc Rosset (Svi)	1297
29. Jan Siemerink (Ned)	1261
30. Thomas Muster (Aut)	1258



Petr Korda

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Monaco surprised at Hoddle offer

MONACO (AFP) — French champions Monaco were surprised to learn on Tuesday they had reportedly offered England coach Glenn Hoddle a job for next season. "That's new to us. We have only just agreed to extend Jean Tigana's contract," said Monaco sports director Henri Biancheri. Reports had suggested Tuesday morning that the England coach had been offered 3 million pounds tax free to take over at Monaco, where he spent three seasons as a player in the late 1980s. Hoddle is under contract with the Football Association until the European Championships in 2000. Two weeks ago Tigana, at Monaco since 1995 after two years in his first coaching job at Lyon, prolonged his contract until 2002.

### Atletico Madrid president banned

MADRID (AFP) — Controversial Atletico Madrid chairman Jesus Gil y Gil was Monday banned from taking any role with the club for two years by the Spanish Football Association (RFEF). The ban followed comments made by Gil before a match against arch-rivals Real Madrid on January 11 that the RFEF said were likely to incite violence by fans. The RFEF said it regarded Gil's outburst as "very serious". The ban came less than a week after Gil was fined nearly \$15,000 by UEFA. European football's ruling body, for ignoring a ban on attending matches imposed by the RFEF. Gil, barred from attending matches for five months after abusing a referee following a Spanish league match, went to his club's last three UEFA Cup matches.

### Le Roy named Cameroon coach

PARIS (AFP) — Cameroon have appointed Claude Le Roy, sports director at Paris St Germain, their World Cup coach, the French club said Tuesday. Paris president Michel Denisot said Cameroon sports minister Joseph Owana had approached the club to secure his temporary release. Le Roy had a long career coaching in Africa, notably guiding Cameroon to the African Nations Cup in 1988. Le Roy will very probably work in tandem with Cameroon's current coach Manga Onguene, who took over from Belgian-born Henri Depireux last July. Onguene had been number two since 1989.

### Cruyff begins latest comeback

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United winger Jordi Cruyff began his latest comeback from injury when he played in a reserve match at Preston on Monday night. Cruyff, who has been out since he suffered a hairline fracture of his right ankle on February 21, scored in the 6-1 victory. The Dutch international has been dogged by injury all season and he has made just seven appearances. In August he suffered ankle ligament damage and, after two games back, he needed surgery on the injury in November. A thigh injury thwarted his return at Christmas before he finally fought his way back to full fitness only to fracture his ankle against Derby in February.

### World Cup warning for Romario

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Brazil coach Mario Zagallo has told Romario to get into shape if he wants to play in the World Cup. "He knows he's off-form and must work hard to make the World Cup," Zagallo said of the Flamengo striker who has been disappointing and goalless in Brazil's last five international friendlies. However, Zagallo has extended the get-fit warning to all his squad. "They all know there can be no letting up," he added.

## Iranian wrestlers head for U.S. competition

TEHRAN (AP) — In another sign of thawing relations, Iran's wrestling team left Tehran Tuesday for the United States, where it will compete in an international competition, a sports official said.

The 18-member delegation, including 12 wrestlers, will stop in Frankfurt, Germany for a day to get their U.S. visas, said Aref Rabi, an official of the Iranian Wrestling Federation.

The United States has not maintained an embassy in Tehran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, when Islamists stormed the embassy and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

The Iranian delegation will later head for Stillwater, Oklahoma to attend the two-day World Freestyle Wrestling Championship, which begins Apr. 4.

The Iranian team includes Olympic silver medalist Abbas Jafadi.

Iran will face the United States, Japan, and Germany on the first day of the competition before going on against Russia and Cuba the next day, Mr. Rabi said.

Iranian sports teams have visited the United States before, but such exchanges have been boosted by the success of the visit by U.S. wrestlers to Iran last month. The wrestlers, who participated in an international tournament in Tehran, were the first American sportsmen to visit Iran since 1979.

The wrestlers were warmly welcomed in Tehran and plan to return in September

for the world championship. Iranian-U.S. relations have been hostile since the 1979 overthrow of the U.S.-backed shah.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who took office in August, has been trying to improve relations and has called for greater cultural exchanges between the two countries.

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Pat Rafter

## Philippoussis, Rafter uncertain for Davis Cup

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's Davis Cup hopes were in turmoil Tuesday with Pat Rafter doubtful through illness and Mark Philippoussis boycotting the team until captain John Newcombe publicly apologises to him.

Rafter, U.S. Open champion and world number four, has a virus and has had virtually no practice this week for the world group tie start Friday against Zimbabwe.

"He picked up a bad virus in Europe five weeks ago and it's flared up again and gone into his muscles," Newcombe said.

"It's a race against time at the moment — I'd say he was only a 50-50 chance to play. He was terrible on Saturday and only a little better today."

Reports said an irate Philippoussis would not play Davis Cup again until Newcombe admits he and coach Tony Roche refused his pleas for help when he was struggling for form when his father had cancer late last year.

The "Scud" said he felt bitterly let down and almost quit the game.

"Why can't he (Newcombe) say that's what we did to Mark and we

understand his frustration," he said.

"He should go out there and say it. Why not? What has he got to hide, because he knows he's wrong. It's as simple as that."

The big-hitting Philippoussis, who has won more singles titles than any current Australian player, is upset that a request to work on a regular basis with Roche was denied.

"I still want to play Davis Cup tennis," he said. "I would be in Mildura if I didn't feel so let down. It's just that I have so much frustration and disappointment inside of me."

The rift has already seen him lose doubles partner Rafter, who split this year to play with Jonas Bjorkman.

"That pretty much topped it," Philippoussis said. "The guy I thought was my closest mate on tour. The thing that killed me was that he didn't have the face to ring and tell me. He just left a message."

Rafter has been having penicillin injections for his virus but Newcombe has now called on a homeopath-

ic doctor to have extra medicine flown to Mildura, in Victoria state, where the tie will be played. Todd Woodbridge is also trying to shake off a virus, which caused him to withdraw from the recent Lipton Championships in Florida.

Newcombe said Woodbridge would not be fit to play singles and doubles, putting the singles burden on doubles partner Mark Woodforde, and Jason Stoltenberg.

But Newcombe remained confident about the tie, to be played on grass courts.

"The grass courts here are exactly the same as those at White City in Sydney and they are suited to his game."

The Zimbabwe team, headed by the brothers, Byron and Wayne Black, arrived in Mildura on Monday.

Newcombe said he was unconcerned about their familiarity with the courts.

"I'd say that grass was not their preferred surface although they are not uncomfortable on it," he said.

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